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THE TIMES

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20p

Portfolio

£42,000 to be won

There is £42,000 available to be won in The Times Portfolio competition today. Last week's £20,000 prize was not won, so that is added to this week's £20,000, making a total of £40,000. And there is the daily prize of £2,000 also available. Yesterday's prize was shared by three winners. Mr Jack Caldwell of Coulsdon, Surrey; Mrs Valerie Haggie of Haslemere, Surrey; and Mr Richard Roope of Canning Town, London, each received £666.66. Portfolio list, page 28; prizes, changes, information service, back page.

Reagan and Kohl make arms cuts a priority

President Reagan and Chancellor Kohl of West Germany issued a joint declaration yesterday calling for improved East-West relations, strengthening of NATO's conventional defence, and an intensified search for nuclear arms reductions.

The declaration was issued after talks at the White House, the first in a series of discussions the United States is having with Japan and its European allies before exploring the possibility of reopening nuclear arms negotiations with the Soviet Union early next year.

President Reagan said yesterday he placed a high priority on the search for a responsible means of reducing the arsenals of nuclear weapons that threaten humankind.

110 killed in Sri Lanka
Eighty people were killed on two farms in northern Sri Lanka during attacks by Tamil separatists. The dead were apparently former prisoners settled on half-acre homesteads. Later, troops were said to have killed 30 rebels. Page 6

Heath outburst
Mr Edward Heath accused Mrs Thatcher in a television interview last night of taking undue risks with Britain's social stability. He also criticized the decision to cut student grants. Speech, page 4

Strangler jailed
A man who strangled his three young daughters because his wife was unfaithful was found guilty of manslaughter and jailed for six years. Page 3

Cyprus hope
The Turkish Cypriots opened the way to a possible breakthrough over the divided island's future by offering big concessions in a UN peace plan. Page 6

Polish deaths
Two senior police officers leading the investigation into the murder of pro-Solidarity priest Father Jerzy Popieluszko were killed in a road accident yesterday. Earlier story, page 5

Terror threat
The Muslim extremists who claimed they killed Percy Norrish, the British diplomat in Bombay, also claimed responsibility for yesterday's bomb attack on a British Airways office in Beirut. More attacks were promised.

Train off rails
A British Rail express split in half yesterday and five carriages were derailed. BR has launched an inquiry into the incident - the second this week. Page 3

Belgrano inquiry
Scotland Yard has been called in to investigate the disappearance of logs from HMS Conqueror, the submarine that sank the General Belgrano during the Falklands conflict. Page 2

Free banking
Midland Bank's decision to offer free banking to customers with a £100 minimum balance will put pressure on other big banks to follow suit. Family Money, page 26

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'Trustees not fit to be in charge of other people's money'

NUM assets and funds under receiver's control

● The High Court has appointed a receiver to control the NUM's funds and assets, effectively removing the union's three top officers as trustees

● Mr Herbert Brewer, the receiver, was preparing last night to leave for Luxembourg to seek the release of £4.38 million of the mining union's funds

● Mr Neil Kinnoch, at a Labour rally in Stoke last night repeated his condemnation of violent coalfield militants saying: "You disgust us all"

● A murder inquiry was launched after the driver of a taxi carrying a working miner was killed when a concrete block was thrown from a bridge

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

A receiver was appointed by the High Court last night to take control of the National Union of Mineworkers' funds and assets after claims that the union's trustees, including its three most senior officers, were "not fit and proper persons to be in charge of other people's money".

The receiver, a Derbyshire solicitor, was appointed after the granting of an order by Mr Justice Mervyn Davies, the effect of which will also be to remove the five NUM trustees, including Mr Arthur Scargill, Mr Michael McGahey and Mr Peter Heathfield, president, vice-president and general secretary.

The action was started, after being initially postponed until next Thursday, after Mr William Stubbs QC, appearing for the union, said he was unable to give the judge assurances that the union would submit to the court's jurisdiction.

NUM lawyers announced that they would seek an urgent appeal against the ex parte order, which could be heard over the weekend if a Court of Appeal can be constituted. Their application to Mr Justice Davies for the order to be suspended until Monday morning was rejected.

The receiver, Mr Herbert Arthur Brewer, was planning to

go to Luxembourg immediately to seek the release of £4.38m of the union's £8m funds held in a bank.

Lawyers representing working miners who brought yesterday's action say the aim is to repatriate the money so that it can be properly invested for the benefit of members.

Earlier, the union had given assurances that it would not seek to move the money from Nobis Finance International

Receiver's role 2

until after the working miners' action was heard in the High Court next Thursday. But after complaints from Mr Howard Page, representing the four partners in Price Waterhouse, who are acting as sequestrators, that the assurances were worthless the judge asked for assurances about conduct.

Today for the first time the defendants have appeared in court and have reaffirmed their undertakings to the court. I take the view that those undertakings would be of value only if, in future, the defendants will submit to the jurisdiction of the court and not defy it in the way that they have in the past," Mr Justice Davies said.

After a ten-minute adjournment during which lawyers took

instructions from officials, including Mr Heathfield, and Mr Roger Windsor, chief executive. Mr Stubbs said it was impossible to give assurances because one of the trustees, Mr Scargill, was travelling to Stoke-on-Trent for a Labour Party rally with Mr Neil Kinnoch.

He said that he would be able to reply to the judge on Monday.

Mr Oliver, for the working miners who are mainly from Nottinghamshire, said actions of the Union's trustees had been "continuing serious and deliberate contempt of orders which place the funds that they hold for the union in jeopardy".

The sequestrators, who have been appointed to seize union funds to pay a £200,000 contempt fine, have obtained £8,174. In addition to the money in Luxembourg, £2.78m had been frozen in Dublin and £503,000 was in Zurich.

Mr Oliver said the three senior officials had embarked on a concerted course of action since before the strikes started last March to hide union funds from British courts. The money had travelled from Sheffield by various routes to the Isle of Man, Dublin, New York, Zurich and Luxembourg. The officials were leaving the union's funds open to jeopardy. Continued on back page, col 7



The taxi in which Mr Wilkie died and the lump of concrete that was pushed off the bridge.

Taxi driver carrying miner killed by concrete slab

From Tim Jones, Merthyr Tydfil

More than 130 South Wales detectives were involved in a murder inquiry yesterday after a taxi driver taking a working miner to his pit was killed when a block of concrete fell from a bridge whizzed through the windscreen of his vehicle.

The police said last night that three men were helping them with their inquiries.

The dead man was named as Mr David Wilkie, aged 35 (right), whose common law wife, Janet Reid, is expecting a baby at Christmas. He also leaves two children, a daughter Claire, aged 12, and a son Jason, aged 5. Last night Mrs Reid who has only one kidney, was in hospital suffering from shock.

Mr David East, the Chief Constable of South Wales, said: "The dead man was a taxi driver engaged on his lawful business of earning a living by taking a fare - a miner who wanted to go to work as he is perfectly and lawfully entitled to do so."

"This is not industrial action."

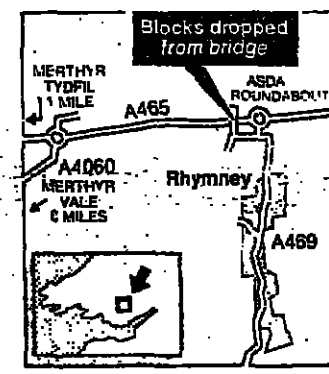


This is not picketing. This is murder.

The target of the attackers, Mr David Wilkie, of Rhymney, was sitting in the back seat of the taxi, escorted by a police convoy of two cars and a motorcycle outrider when the ambush took place.

Although Mr Wilkie, aged 35, was said yesterday to be deeply shocked, his wife Carol said he would be reporting back to work at the pit on Monday.

The attack came before dawn as Mr Wilkie was driving Mr



Blocks dropped from bridge

Williams to the Merthyr Vale pit six miles from his home where 250 pickets were waiting for him and another working miner.

The taxi travelled on the same route that it had used for the last 10 days and as Mr Wilkie's taxi careered out of control on to the embankment the police saw two figures running from the bridge. Mr Wilkie was dead before an ambulance took him to hospital.

Two months ago, Mr Viv

Continued on back page, col 7

Stop all violence, says Kinnoch

From Anthony Bevis, Political Correspondent, Stoke-on-Trent

Mr Neil Kinnoch, leader of the Labour Party, last night warned the coalfield militants, wherever they were, whoever they were, "The violence has got to stop and stop now, for as you endanger others you debase the cause and you disgust us all."

Mr Kinnoch, who was sharing a platform with Mr Arthur Scargill, president of the National Union of Mineworkers, for the first time since the Durham miners' gala in the summer, was earlier booed and his name greeted with cries of "scab", "traitor" and "Judas" from one section of the audience at the town hall in Stoke-on-Trent.

In contrast, Mr Scargill, who arrived late at the meeting because of his London court

hearing, was announced to a massive roar of approval.

Mr Kinnoch told the rally that they were meeting "under the shadow of an atrocity."

He said "no more" at the meeting about the death of Mr David Wilkie in South Wales yesterday, but he said that violence was not controlled or ordered or wielded by any organization. "It is the action of individuals."

Mr Kinnoch then told his audience: "Violence will not bring victory; violence is the main barrier to victory."

But he also had an appeal for the nation and a message for Mrs Margaret Thatcher.

He said: "Look behind the scenes of violence, hear the case for coal. Ask yourselves why your fellow countrymen

and women are showing such endurance in spite of poverty and terrible pressures."

The case for coal was the case for the whole country when coal provided 75 per cent of the country's industrial energy needs.

The Government had failed to face those realities, and had failed to provide a basis for ending the strike, Mr Kinnoch said. Sixty million tons of coal had been lost and it had been estimated that the financial costs of the dispute alone ranged from £2,500 million to £4,500 million.

Against that background, the plan to cut back production to shut the twenty or more pits, and to wipe out twenty thousand jobs should be withdrawn.

Telecom staff rush for free shares

By Jonathan Davis

All but 8,000 of British Telecom's 230,000 employees have opted to become shareholders in the newly privatized corporation, ignoring a trade union campaign urging them to boycott this week's record-breaking government share offer.

Figures disclosed yesterday show that more than 95 per cent of Telecom workforce has decided to take up some or all of the free and cut-price shares on offer to them in the £3,900 million flotation, which closed on Wednesday morning.

The outcome is bound to delight Government ministers, who have been keen to ensure the widest possible employee involvement in the BT privatization. Ten per cent of the 3,000 million shares on offer this week were reserved for the workforce, mostly on highly favourable terms.

The enthusiastic response means that British Telecom will start life as a private sector company with what is almost certainly the biggest corps of worker shareholders of any business in Western Europe.

According to Hill Samuel, the City merchant bank responsible for handling employee share applications, 222,600 forms were returned requesting shares. Of these, 38,900 opted for £70 worth of free shares. Another 183,700 were attracted by the Government's offer to give them two free shares for every one they bought.

On top of this, 64,000 Telecom employees - more than one in four - have also decided to buy extra shares at 90 per cent of the public offer price.

Meanwhile, the two million or more members of the public who applied for shares in Telecom are expected to be given a broad indication this weekend of how many shares they stand to receive.

Because the share issue was oversubscribed, it is expected that those who applied for the minimum number of shares will receive what they asked for, but those making bigger applications will receive only a fraction of their requests.

Early start, page 23

Hawke set for easy win today

From Alan Hamilton, Sydney

Australia goes to the polls today for the second time in less than two years, with Mr Bob Hawke's Government seemingly assured of another term.

A last-minute opinion poll yesterday predicted 90 seats for Labour and 58 for the Liberals. In the previous Parliament, Labour had 75 to the Liberals' 50. Redistribution of seats means the new Parliament will be bigger.

Labour still has little chance of gaining control of the Senate, where the polls predict only a 40 per cent share of the seats for the Government. The balance of power is likely to be held by minority parties.

Although the Liberal-National coalition faces another three years in opposition, the personal standing of its leader, Mr Andrew Peacock, has risen substantially since his appearance in Monday's televised debate with the Prime Minister. His chances of retaining the leadership have improved.

Leading article, page 9

Thatcher delighted by summit success

From Diana Gaddes, Paris

Mrs Margaret Thatcher hailed yesterday the "new atmosphere of co-operation and constructive discussion" between France and Britain at the end of what British sources described as the most relaxed and friendly summit meeting between the two countries since she became Prime Minister five and a half years ago.

As the Prime Minister herself pointed out at the final joint press conference with President Mitterrand at the Elysee Palace, it was the first bilateral Franco-British meeting which she had attended, which had not been dominated by discussion of the EEC budget, thanks, she said, to the "excellent agreement" at Fontainebleau.

She paid a special tribute to the personal role played by President Mitterrand in reaching that agreement.

M. Mitterrand was far less effusive in his comments at the press conference, referring only to the "consistency" of the relations between the two countries, and otherwise restricting his remarks to a

detailed summary of the joint projects which had been discussed.

Mrs Thatcher went on to speak of the progress made during the summit in four areas of co-operation between the two countries: defence, energy, industry and the Channel Tunnel, which merited a special joint declaration of its own.

In the declaration, the two leaders said that they "recognize the potential importance of a cross-channel fixed link as an element in the great European transport network, and consider that such a link would be technically feasible and financially viable".

Turning to the EEC, the prime Minister said that 1984 was a very important year for the Community as it had set out to tackle two critical underlying problems, first finance and now enlargement. If a final decision could be reached on enlargement at the Dublin summit, it would mark "a wonderful year of achievement for the Community," she said.

European unity, page 6

Polish investors take the slow boat to Rotterdam

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

With the usual dockside chatter, hooting and whistling, the slow boat to Rotterdam steamed out of Gdynia stuffed to the gunwales with bright-eyed Poles. Some of them carry suspiciously heavy cases, others clutch suspiciously empty bags.

After a week-long cruise, the boat will dock again in Poland. Those with lumpy luggage will have started a new life in Hamburg or Holland, the survivors will have returned with videos, carpets and oranges to be sold on the black market.

In Poland, a cruise has little to do with relaxation, developing sunbathers or picking up cocktails served by white coated stewards. A cruise is either a short cut to riches or a relatively uncomplicated way of defecting to the West. It is above all an investment.

Over the past fortnight some 400 Poles have jumped ship: 192 from the venerable *Stefan Batory*, 110 from the *Rogalini* and 126 from a car ferry. West German border police say that since the beginning of last year, 1,374 Poles have defected while their cruise ship has been

docked in Hamburg or Travemünde.

Package tour groups do not have to wait for months for Western visas and it is quite simple to obtain a passport, so they are an attractive proposition for would-be defectors. The hulking, ageing liner *Stefan Batory*, can carry for over 600 passengers as it steams its way around the Canary Islands (at a cost equal to three years' average wages), to North America or on short hauls to Rotterdam via Hamburg. It is often difficult to obtain a berth and money must change hands a few times

before the passenger is safely on board.

But it is easy enough to spot the two substantial categories of passenger - the defector and the speculator - as they bounce up the gangway.

The defector often has members of his close family with him, plus some of his prized belongings, and he displays none of the carefree drinking habits of the holiday-maker.

A stewardess on the *Stefan Batory* was recently asked for her method of detecting defectors: "This chap asked me to wash and press his shirt

before the evening, before we docked in the West. Well, I'm not stupid - what's the hurry? I told him I knew what he was up to and he could wash his own shirt. Didn't surprise me when he didn't come back."

The black market speculator, of the ordinary Pole who is hoping to cover the cost of his cruise by judicious dealing, is a different matter altogether.

When Polish ships dock in Hamburg they are frequently met by German wholesalers with mini-buses who drive them immediately to carpet or

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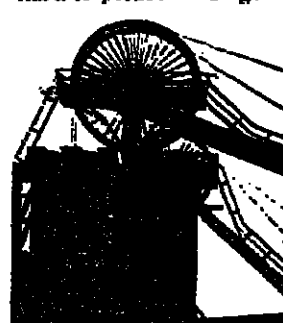


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Jonathan Miller tells how one man lives with Parkinson's disease

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Dolls' houses have changed in style but are still as popular as ever



The man and his music

Exclusive interview with Sir George Solti on 25 years at Covent Garden

Anyone for Graham's

Late Bottled Vintage 1978 PORT

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Yard is called in over missing log books of Falklands submarine

By Richard Evans, Lobby Reporter

The Metropolitan Police has been called in to investigate the disappearance of control room logs from HMS Conqueror, Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence, said yesterday, after the failure of a naval board of inquiry to locate the six documents covering much of the Falklands war during which the submarine sank the cruiser General Belgrano.

The board, a captain and two commanders on the staff of Admiral Sir William Staveley, Commander in Chief of the Fleet, also failed "to identify a proven explanation for their disappearance".

But Mr Heseltine disclosed in a Commons written answer that the three-week inquiry had found that proper procedures for the safe handling and custody of control room logs had not been followed "for many months", including between March and October 1982, covered by the missing logs.

The police investigation, headed by Detective Chief

Superintendent Ronald Hardy, Scotland Yard's unofficial "mole" hunter, is under way, the Director of Public Prosecutions office said last night.

In addition a "specially-constituted team" of senior naval officers will carry out further searches for the logs, which contain a full list of signals sent to London by the Conqueror before and after the Belgrano sinking.

Mr Heseltine, who received the findings of the naval board on Thursday, said there were several possible causes for the log's loss. Although there was no proof they ever left the submarine, they could have been "inadvertently destroyed" after the Conqueror returned to Devonport or lost in transit between the MoD records office at Hayes.

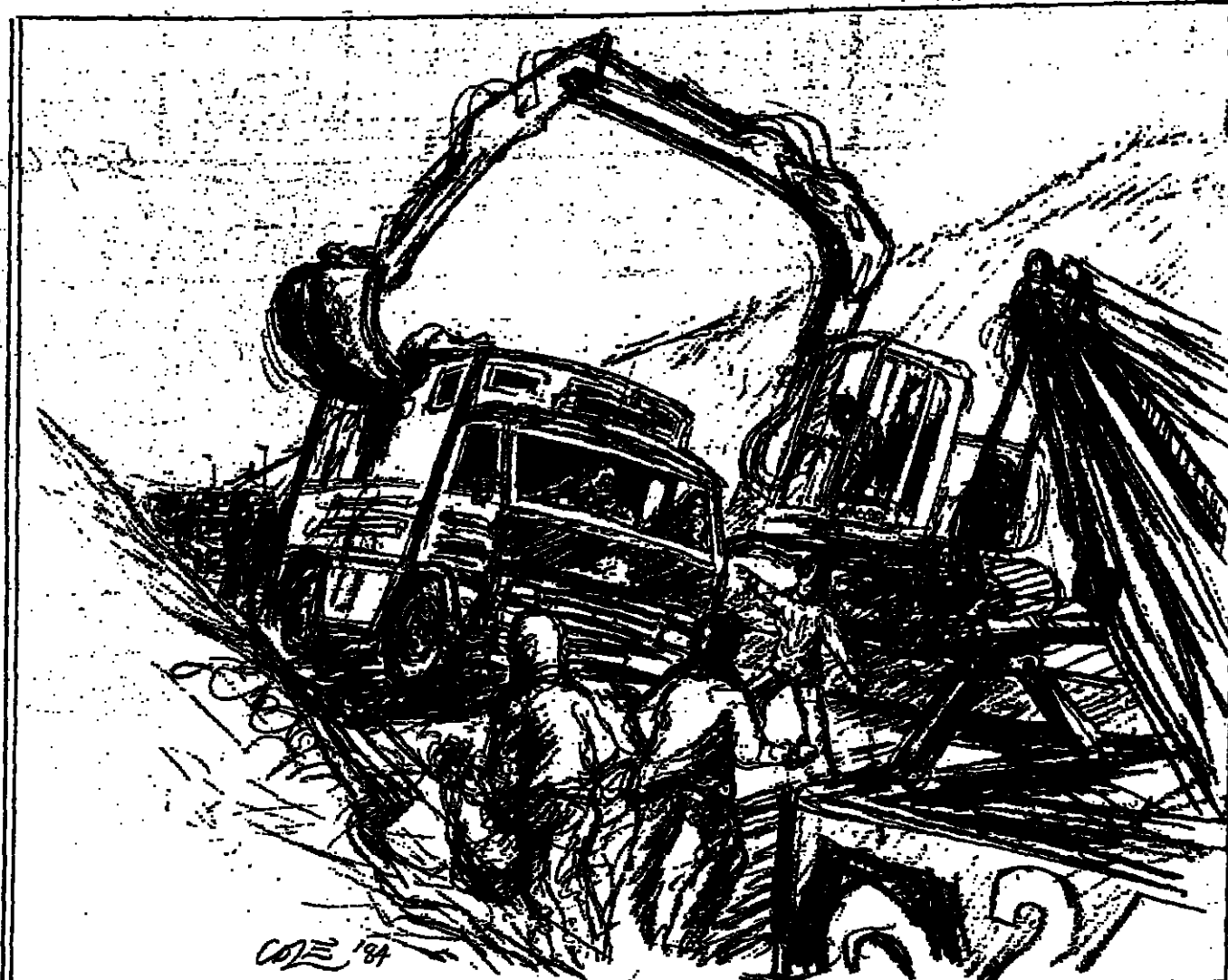
"They could also have been...deliberately and unlawfully destroyed although there is no evidence to suggest this; or removed as souvenirs or for the assumed political or financial value".

Mr George Foulkes, a Labour frontbench spokesman and leading critic of the Government's handling of the Belgrano affair, said the report implicated the Government in a major cover-up. It requires an extraordinary imagination to believe the board's report.

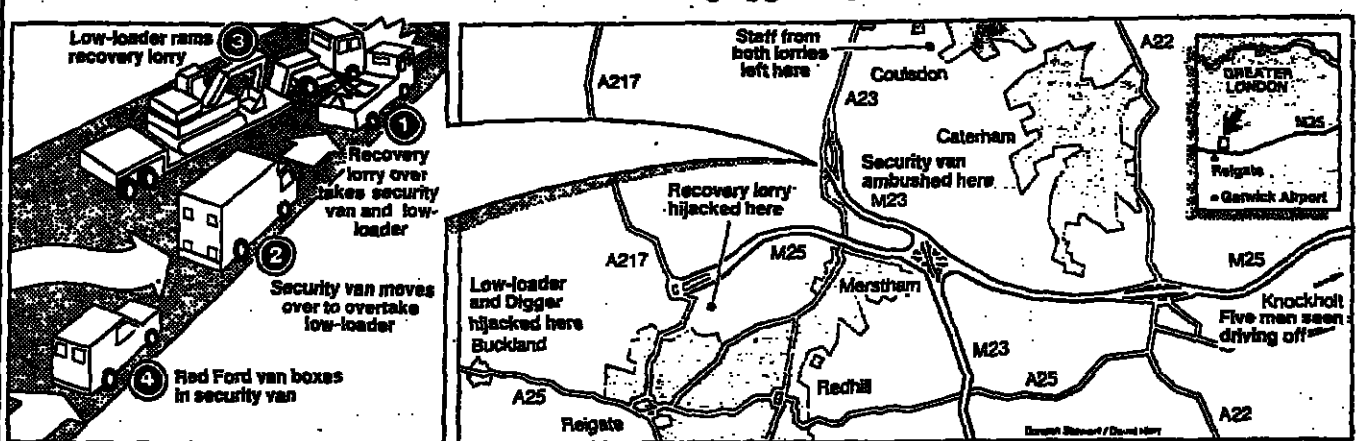
While the ministry claimed it did not know where or when the logs were lost, Mr Foulkes said he understood all logs and documents were delivered intact to the ministry "after the most extensive debriefing of the crew".

"The Government" is responsible for the log and it is reprehensible that they should blame individual crew members for its loss.

Mr Denzil Davies, Labour's chief defence spokesman, said Mr Heseltine's failure to find the log "is as cowardly as it is extraordinary". "Is he now washing his hands over the matter or is he going to pursue it with the same kind of zeal as he did with the cases of Sarah Tisdall and Clive Ponting?"



Drama on the M23: how the gang got away with £300,000



Pit strike: How the receiver works

Union to lose control of money

By Ian Griffiths

The receiver appointed by the court to take control of NUM funds and assets will take effective charge of its finances. Although accountable to the court and charged with carrying out its wishes, he will hold the union's purse strings.

His first task will be to bring under his control all assets. He flew to Luxembourg last night to initiate proceedings to return funds there.

The appointment is until next Thursday when the receiver must report to the court. If he can confirm that he has achieved control of funds and assets the court will decide his next move.

He could given the job of managing the union's assets, in

which case he will have a much wider impact on the NUM. The receiver would be able to control all union payments and be responsible for collecting money paid to the union.

Once the receiver has control it will be possible for the sequestrators to fulfil their obligations.

This type of appointment is very unusual. This kind of receiver would normally be appointed where there is a disagreement within a partnership.

The appointment also differs from the traditional commercial receivership where the receiver is appointed, normally by the banks or other creditors, to run a company.

Yesterday's court ruling does not mean that the NUM is being wound up.

Our Legal Affairs Correspondent writes: Dr Simpson, a lecturer in labour law at the London School of Economics, said it was not certain that the receiver would obtain the money. He would need the cooperation of the banks who might refuse to hand over the funds, if they are in the names of the three officials previously in charge.

Dr Simpson said the latest move did not spell the death of the union. The area branches could operate because they were separately registered.

Woodrow Wyatt, page 3

13 die since the start

By Rupert Morris

Thirteen people who were either involved in the coal industry or connected in some way with the miners' strike, have died since the beginning of March. Although several of the deaths can be directly attributed to the coal strike, others have a more tenuous connexion.

March 14: David Jones, aged 24, a picketing miner, collapsed and died after being crushed on the picket line outside Ollerton colliery.

March 20: Thomas Milburn, aged 51, a safety engineer, was killed by a runaway wagon underground at Dawdon colliery, co Durham. He was investigating a rock fall, a task described by the coal board as "outside his normal duties".

March 26: Ian Tanner, aged 25, was killed at his home in Peterlee, co Durham.

His father said he had been branded a "scab".

May 17: Joseph Pollard, aged 53, died after being struck by a runaway truck at Whitwick colliery, near Coalville, Leicestershire.

June 15: Joe Green, aged 55, a miner from Knottingley, near Castleford, Yorkshire, died after being knocked over by a lorry at Ferrybridge colliery.

June 21: James Clay, aged 33, a working miner from Sneyd Green, Stoke-on-Trent, committed suicide in his garage after receiving threatening telephone calls.

August 24: John Wildman, aged 36, of Carbridge, Cotgrave, was crushed to death by a hydraulic support while working at the coal face at Cotgrave Colliery, Nottinghamshire.

September 8: Paul Womers-

ley, aged 14, died while picking up coal after an embankment collapsed at Upton, near Wakefield, Yorkshire.

October 5: Jack Whitehurst, aged 56, a working miner, was crushed by falling coal at Wolstanton, Staffordshire.

November 18: Paul and Darren Holme, aged 14 and 15, died when a railway embankment collapsed as they were digging for coal at Goldthorpe, Yorkshire.

November 28: PC Bob Reynolds, community constable at Chesterton, Cambridgeshire, died of a heart attack in a bus on his way back from a picket line in Kent.

November 29: Trevor Prince was crushed while moving supplies underground at Little Colliery, Cannock, Staffordshire.

Six held over digger raid on security van

By Stewart Tendler
Crime Reporter

Detectives investigating a £300,000 armed robbery in Surrey in which a security van was attacked with a mechanical digger were last night questioning six people after raids in London.

Four men and two women were taken to Reigate police station and further arrests were forecast in an investigation into a robbery which was both bizarre and highly organized.

The gang involved in the attack on Thursday 21st the northern end of the M23 from Brighton left £1 million behind, because, it is thought, they were running behind schedule.

The robbery took place as the Brinks-Mat security van was leaving the motorway to

join the A23 on its way to one of the firm's depots in London. The gang struck on the dual carriage slip road between the motorway and the A23 near Mersham.

A hijacked garage lorry used to tow commercial vehicles was ahead of the security van. It pulled out to overtake a digger on a two-lane road which had also been hijacked and the lorry then drove deliberately into the side of the lorry.

The security van was suddenly blocked in as a red transit van pulled up behind. The driver got out, went over to the low loader, started the digger and smashed it into the Brinks-Mat vehicle, forcing the crew of three out.

The gang, clutching £300,000, fled to at least one

getaway vehicle on the A23 and made off.

Yesterday the owners of the recovery lorry and the digger believed the gang tried to tell his firm where to find the driver, who had been handcuffed and hidden in a van left at Coulsdon, Surrey. A mysterious telephone caller told Twyford's office that their vehicle was at Coulsdon, but the call was dismissed as a hoax.

The digger was hired on November 13 from Heathrow Plant in west London.

The firm was sent a banker's draft for £500 and they were told the digger should arrive at a road at Bickland near Reigate late in the morning.

The west London firm subcontracted the job to a firm at Wembley, north London.

Bottom, near Reigate, and the lorry was taken over.

After the robbery, on Thursday afternoon, Mr Twyford believes the gang tried to tell his firm where to find the driver, who had been handcuffed and hidden in a van left at Coulsdon, Surrey. A mysterious telephone caller told Twyford's office that their vehicle was at Coulsdon, but the call was dismissed as a hoax.

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Steel attacks 'ruinous' cost of Trident

By Our Lobby Reporter

Britain's national security is under direct threat from the "ruinously expensive" Trident programme, Mr David Steel, said last night.

In his most outspoken attack to date on the nuclear weapon project, the Liberal party leader gave a warning that the escalating cost of at least £10,000 million now put essential conventional projects at risk of cut-back, postponement or cancellation.

Mr Steel, who was addressing the Borders nuclear freeze council, described Trident as the "albino around Mrs Thatcher's neck".

Students pelt Joseph with eggs

Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education and Science, had eggs thrown at him and was spat at by students when he visited Wakefield College, West Yorkshire, yesterday.

About 300 students gathered outside the college entrance to protest at Sir Keith's plan to cut £39m from student grants. As he arrived, a missile was hurled at his car and struck the windshield but he was unhurt.

When Sir Keith later left the college for an annex, the police scuffled with demonstrators who had hemmed him into a courtyard. Several eggs were thrown but missed their target.

One placard carried by a demonstrator said: "140 Tory MPs can't be wrong - this time".

Before Sir Keith arrived the college was lowered to half-mast by students. It was later removed by staff. Sir Keith had been in the building only a few minutes when students set off the fire alarm.

Despite the protest the visit proceeded as planned. Sir Keith was shown around the college by Mr Ken Ruddiman, principle of the college.

After the visit Sir Keith said: "I do not like upsetting colleagues, naturally, and I hope to be able to persuade them to take into account some of the factors that perhaps I have not managed to bring out vividly enough, which led to this redeployment of money."

He said he would be meeting MPs on Tuesday but admitted he did not expect to convince everyone.

Sir Keith said he was unable to reconsider the situation: "I would not have done this if I had the resources to do it some other way."

He added that he was unimpressed by the reception he had received from the students. He said many were not from the Wakefield College and he doubted whether some were students at all.

He said the demonstration showed how little some students were benefiting from higher education at the taxpayers' expense.

Sir Keith admitted that under the new financial arrangements some students may not be able to finish their courses.

But he added: "I have to balance that against the certainty that unless some money is redeployed there will be very important scientific, medical, engineering and environmental research, the outcome of which might benefit this country and humanity, that might not be done by very talented people."

He said that students in danger of having to abandon a course should consider trying to find part-time work.

Conservative MPs left Westminster last night to face their constituencies after the firestorm over the Government's planned squeeze of student grants (Our Lobby Reporter writes).

More than half of the Conservative backbench strength have now signed Commons motions criticizing Sir Keith's plan as "misconceived".

Many have already been inundated with letters and telephone calls from irate parents faced with finding up to £700 extra to support a child at university or colleges from October.

One MP said: "It is all building up in a pretty ugly way."

Letters, page 9

Venetian laquerwork bureau fetches £220,000

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

When the Venetians imitated Oriental lacquerwork they really went to town with sinuous curves, landscape or floral cartouches, carving and gilding, and their skill yesterday was endorsed by a bid of £220,000 (estimate £70,000-£90,000) for a bureau cabinet.

It is an exceptionally fine example with a red ground of lacca povera, as Venetian lacquer is called. Giltwood figures representing the seasons preside from the top corners, while the architectural cornice swirls up between them, into a mirrored cartouche, surmounted by a papal shield.

The panel aims no doubt explain why so much care was lavished on this piece with its elegant landscape panels, but the price goes far beyond what is normally expected for grand Venetian furniture. The buyer chose to remain anonymous but also splashed out £143,000 (estimate £80,000-£120,000) to secure a tremendously ornate pair of gilt-bronze, hardstone and ebony cabinets.

Sotheby's had not dared to submit a nationality for the cabinets. The colourful vases of hardstone flowers look Italian, the crisply swirling patterns of gilt bronze look French, but the best bet is that they were put together in England around 1820.

The other sensational item in the sale was an octagonal Savonnerie carpet, almost certainly one of the 121 carpets commissioned by Louis XIV for the Palais du Louvre.

It is known that two carpets woven for the Galerie d'Apollon in the mid-1660s had octagonal medallions corresponding to the vaulting of the ceiling and this could be a section from one of them. It went for £104,500 (estimate £80,000-£120,000) to Alexander and Berendt, the London dealers.

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Ulster believes flags Act will not be repealed

The repeal of Northern Ireland's controversial Flags and Emblems Act, which effectively prevents the flying of the Irish tricolour in Ulster while declaring the union flag inviolable in any circumstances, is not thought by Stormont sources to be likely in the immediate future despite an assurance from Mr Nicholas Scott the Under Secretary of State at the Northern Ireland Office, in the Commons on Thursday that it would be considered.

There is speculation in Belfast that the Government may make an early move to repeal the Act which is an unsought and embarrassing inheritance from the former devolved Northern Ireland government.



Smiling through: The Queen Mother attending Sandown races yesterday where her horse, Lunedale, was beaten into third place in the Crowcap Novice Chase. (Photograph: Ian Stewart)

Tass escapes fine but gets contempt ruling

The white collar engineering union, Tass, was in contempt of court during the recent Austin Rover dispute, a High Court judge ruled yesterday.

But Mr Justice Hodgson, who on Monday fined the Transport and General Workers' Union £200,000 for contempt, said the contempt by Tass was not serious and a penalty would not be imposed.

Although the injunction has been withdrawn by consent and the union claimed it should never have been made, while it was in force they had a duty to comply with it, the judge said.

It had been argued on the union's behalf that it had not instructed members to strike and had not endorsed the strike therefore there was nothing to withdraw.

Police defuse Thatcher letter bomb

An incendiary device hidden in a letter addressed to the Prime Minister was intercepted by police explosives experts after a suspicious postman spotted the envelope at a sorting office yesterday.

The device was found at Nine Elms, South London yesterday morning. It was taken to Cannon Row police station where it was defused and sent to forensic scientist for examination.

The envelope was white and the address was handwritten. Police said the device was "viable" but would not have caused serious damage.

Last night the Scottish National Liberation Front claimed responsibility, but Scotland Yard said the device was an unusual one.

The Times overseas selling prices: Sunday £1.25, Monday £1.25, Tuesday £1.25, Wednesday £1.25, Thursday £1.25, Friday £1.25, Saturday £1.25.

Bomber 'in room 629'

Police searching for the man who planted the Brighton bomb are now convinced that he stayed in room 629 of the Grand Hotel on the nights of September 15 and 18, and that he had a woman staying with him.

The man gave his name as Roy Walsh, and the false address of 27 Braxfield Road, London SE4, and it is understood from his room orders that a woman stayed in the same room.

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Soap cure found for killer infection

By Thompson Prentice, Science Correspondent

Hospital researchers investigating treatments for acne have discovered what they believe to be a cure for a killer "super germ" which has so far proved resistant to antibiotics.

A team at the Royal Liverpool Hospital was analysing the antiseptic ingredients of soaps, deodorants, perfumes and after-shave lotions at the same time as an outbreak of staphylococcus aureus occurred on the premises. The outbreak forced the closure of the hospital's vascular unit for three weeks, two years ago.

A similar outbreak at the London Hospital, Whitechapel, earlier this year was a contributory factor in the deaths of up to 24 patients, and the infection is also causing serious problems in the United States and Australia.

The Royal Liverpool researchers recognized the potential value of the antiseptics in the toiletries and have developed a liquid soap, containing some of the ingredients. Infected patients are asked to use

this soap three times a day for whole-body washes or showers while the infection persists.

Doctors at the hospital say a cure is normally effected within three weeks.

Details of research are published in the present edition of the *New England Journal of Medicine*. A spokesman for the Royal Liverpool hospital said yesterday: "We are not claiming a miracle cure, but the soap solution has worked on our patients, effectively wiping out this infection at the hospital."

The London Hospital, Whitechapel, has continued to use an isolation ward to combat the infection, which was first recorded there in October, 1982. But despite a wide range of measures, the infection has not been completely eradicated. Mr Andrew Dillon, the hospital's deputy administrator, said yesterday: "Our microbiologists will study the Royal Liverpool research very carefully. It is possible we may review our treatment as a result."

Six years for girls' strangler

John Lambert who strangled his three daughters was jailed for six years at Oxford Crown Court yesterday after being convicted by a majority verdict of the manslaughter of Tracey, aged six, Hayley, aged four, and Rachel, aged three, on the grounds of diminished responsibility. He was cleared of murder.

Lambert, aged 34, of Briar Way, Oxford, was jailed for six years on each charge, to run concurrently.

Sentencing Lambert, a former car worker, Mr Justice Hutchings said: "Any punishment I impose on you will be small compared to the remorse and anguish you will now feel and feel for the rest of your life as a result of the dreadful things you did."

It had taken the jury of eight women and four men almost five hours to reach their verdict. Lambert's estranged wife, Sue, aged 30, who is expecting another child, flew into a hysterical rage when she heard the sentence.

Afterwards she said: "What am I going to do? He'll kill me and get me. He'll kill me."

The prosecution said that Lambert killed the girls to cause the maximum possible harm to his wife after he discovered she was having an affair.

Later, a spokesman for Women's Aid, Ms Penny Marsh, said: "The evidence of Mrs Lambert was never heard in court. This case gives men licence to kill or attempt to kill women and children."

Man jailed for revenge bomb blast

An unemployed man set up a home-made bomb to "shake" his neighbours upstairs after months of music and noise from their flat. The explosion that resulted in July this year, in a high-rise block of 120 flats in Burrows Court at Sneyton, Nottingham, destroyed three flats and resulted in the block being evacuated. Nottingham Crown Court was told yesterday.

Mr John Deave, for the prosecution, said that no-one was injured but a number of people were frightened and shocked. Damage totalled £33,000 and people had to be rehoused.

David Lloyd, a widower, aged 53, who pleaded guilty to causing an explosion likely to endanger life, was jailed for two years.

Mr Deave said that Lloyd had been planning his revenge for a number of weeks. Six weeks before the explosion, he told an elderly lady living in the block: "There is going to be a big bang. They will wonder what hit them." She did not take him seriously, Mr Deave said.

Lloyd allegedly told police: "I am not proud of what I have done. I wanted to shake them upstairs. You have got to understand a man's nerves can only take so much."

Mr Justice Bush said: "No doubt you were sorely tried by the noise from the flat above over a long period of time and felt you could get no relief from the authorities. Nevertheless, no provocation can justify the steps you took."

Housing groups criticize cuts in lodging grant

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

Government moves to cut board and lodging payments for the unemployed would mean a massive increase in homelessness next month, housing organizations said yesterday.

"If the proposals are implemented as they stand it could put 50,000 people on the streets," Mr Chris Smith, social security spokesman for the Campaign for Single Homeless (Chas) said.

Shelter said if the cuts went ahead "a lot of people are going to have to leave guest houses and bed and breakfasts with nowhere else to go, or will end up having to share in barracks-like dormitory hostels".

The government proposals, which are open to comment until December 28, are aimed at stopping alleged profiteering by hotel and guest house owners who have advertised for claimants to move, often to seaside towns, where they can receive board and lodging payments of between £80 and £110 a week.

In some cases, the Department of Health and Social Security claimed that proprietors had paid rail fares to bring claimants to their areas and young people were "enjoying a life style not normally available to them".

Under the proposals, 16 to 17-year-olds will be able to claim for bed and breakfast accommodation, only in exceptional circumstances, and the unemployed will be limited to a stay of two to four weeks outside their home area to look for work unless they can prove they need longer.

The London Housing Aid Centre (Shac), said the time allowed to find work in places such as London was "just unrealistic". Many young people had been turned out by parents, partly because of cuts in housing benefit.

Under the Government's proposals, the maximum board and lodging payment will be between £60 and £70 a week in London, and between £50 and £60 a week elsewhere.

A Chas spokesman said: "You just don't get bed and breakfast at those rates. People will be pushed down into common lodging houses and the very worst accommodation, or will be evicted because the limits aren't high enough."

The Department of Health and Social Security said the proposals should not increase homelessness.

"The aim is to curb profiteering and exploitation of the rules," a spokesman said.

Boy nearly died in fishing rod attack

A youth aged 16 was ordered at the Central Criminal Court yesterday to be detained for 12 years for an attack that left a boy aged 10 blind in one eye.

Stephen Whitehead, resident at a special school at Redhill, Surrey, admitted causing grievous bodily harm with intent to the boy, and indecently assaulting him at a lake near Redhill on August 26 this year.

Mr John Nutting, for the prosecution, said the victim was repeatedly punched, partly strangled and hit on the head with a fishing rod. He was now blind in the right eye and had unsightly scars.

"quite horrific" case. The attack happened near the Earlswood Lakes, where both boys had been fishing.

As the boy aged 10 left the lake, Whitehead asked him where he lived. The boy said he lived at Redhill and Whitehead suggested they walk on together. After walking for a short while, he pushed the boy to the ground, sat on his stomach and pressed his hands around his neck.

The boy then became unconscious and Whitehead began to beat him about the face and head with a fishing rod, using the heavy end of the rod. Whitehead punched the boy

repeatedly and then pulled off his trousers and pants to his knees, before dragging him into undergrowth and leaving him unconscious, bleeding and badly injured.

Whitehead was said to have told the police that while he was fishing the boy had looked at him in a funny way and started "giving me a bit of lip".

Asked if he had indecently assaulted the boy, Whitehead said he had taken the boy's trousers and pants down to his knees. "I didn't do anything else," Mr William Hibbert, for the defence, said that Whitehead was educationally subnormal.

Bench dabbled with science, judge declares

A High Court judge yesterday criticized judges and magistrates for "dabbling as amateurs in science".

Lord Justice Goff, sitting in the Queen's Bench Divisional Court with Mr Justice McCullough, allowed a police prosecution appeal against a decision by Colchester magistrates in July, 1983, to acquit an Army corporal on a drink-driving charge after they considered medical evidence without the benefit of expert advice.

Corporal Alan Lunn, of Whittington Barracks, Lichfield, Staffordshire, was accused of driving at Balkeine Hill, Colchester, in May last year. But the magistrates dismissed the case after they studied an extract from a copy of the *British Medical Journal*, which they concluded, proved that a pint of beer consumed after Corporal Lunn had stopped driving had put him "over the limit".

Brinks-Matt jury fails to reach verdicts

The jury trying three men at the Central Criminal Court involved in the theft of £26 million of gold bullion, platinum, and diamonds, from a Brinks-Matt warehouse at Heathrow airport in November last year, retired to a London hotel for a second night. The jury will return to court today in an attempt to reach a verdict.

Michael McAvooy, aged 32, of Beckwith Road, East Dulwich, south-east London; Anthony White, aged 40, of St James Road, Rotherhithe, south-east London; Brian Robinson, aged 40, of Rollins Street, London, have all denied being involved in the raid.

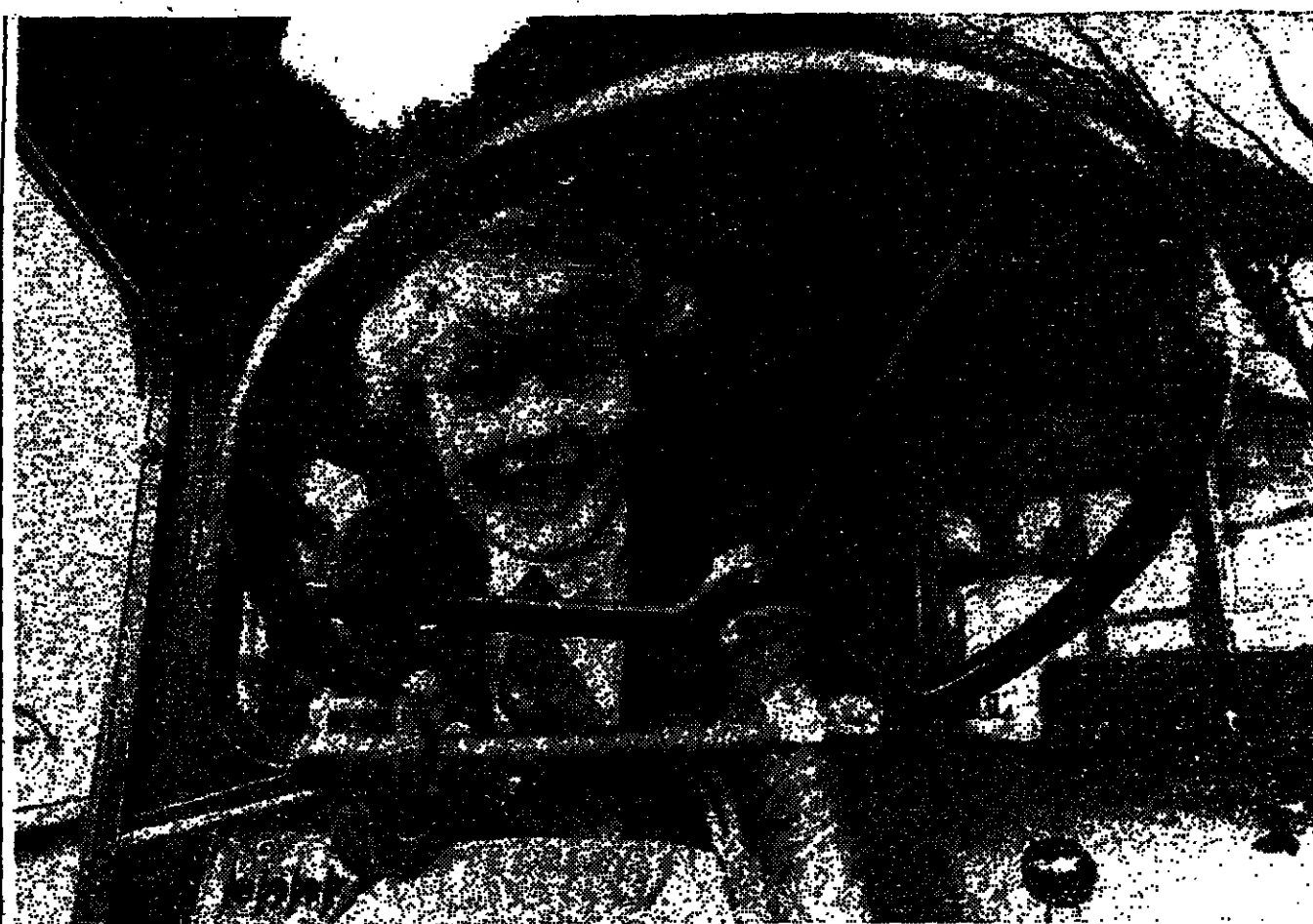
Broadmoor for jealous killer

A social worker who killed the woman with whom he lived and stabbed her victim's son, aged four, more than 50 times was yesterday ordered to be detained indefinitely in Broadmoor Hospital.

Death of hares

Ministry of Agriculture scientists and veterinary surgeons are investigating the death of hundreds of hares in the south of England.

Mr Robert Key, Conservative MP for Salisbury, estimates that 50 per cent of the county's hares have died and fears there could be a link with chemical sprays.



Driving ambition: The Archbishop of Canterbury's wife, Mrs Rosalind Runcie, driving a double-deck bus yesterday in the grounds of Lambeth Palace, London. Dr Runcie on the running board watched as she fulfilled a life-long dream. The bus is one of five that took 500 Crisis at Christmas pilgrims to Canterbury before a sponsored walk back to London today to raise £25,000 (Photograph: Brian Harris).



Gun-chase log plea refused

The Irish naval officer heading the operation leading to the capture of the gun-running trawler the *Marita Ann* off co Kerry refused to hand over his ship's log to Dublin's Special Criminal Court yesterday.

Lieutenant Commander Brian Farrell, captain of the *Emer*, told Mr Martin Kennedy, defence counsel for Gavin Mortimer, one of five men charged with firearms offences, that it was confidential.

Mr Kennedy said he needed to check if any of the ships to which men were transferred after the trawler's capture had gone outside Irish territorial waters. If they had the accused would not have been legally arrested.

Mr Justice James McMahon, presiding, instructed the commander to prepare a chart showing the course taken by his ship, the Irish Navy vessel *Ashling* and the *Marita Ann* after the arrest.

Mortimer, aged 53; John McCarthy, aged 26; Michael Browne, aged 42; Martin Ferris, aged 34, all from co Kerry; and former US marine John Crawley, aged 27, of co Kildare, deny possessing firearms, and explosives.

The hearing continues on Tuesday.

Study shows child abuse as health problem

By David Nicholson-Lord

Doctors, social workers and policemen have been urged to treat sexual abuse of children by their fathers or stepfathers as a "major public health problem" causing serious emotional effects which are transmitted from one generation to the next.

After three years' research, a study group, has concluded that taboo, fear and ignorance have prevented open discussion on the subject and that reported cases are only the "tip of the iceberg". Many figures in authority are afraid to discuss it because they have been personally involved, it adds.

The group's report, published yesterday, adds: "Sexual abuse occurs in secret, is kept a secret by the family and is being kept a

secret by society's attitudes and taboos."

It makes 34 recommendations for action by schools, the police and local authorities and follows a survey by Mori showing that one in 10 British adults - more than four million - have been sexually abused as children, before the age of 16.

The poll, commissioned in advance of a three-part series on the subject beginning on Channel Four tonight, is said to be the first representative national survey on the subject.

Experts said yesterday its findings accorded with their experience. Dr Arnon Bentovim, a member of the study group and consultant psychiatrist at Great Ormond Street children's hospital London, said their research indi-

cated that four-fifths of victims were girls and 70 per cent of culprits fathers or stepfathers. Most cases occurred when the child was aged between six and 10.

Ms Carolyn Okell Jones, a senior social worker at the Tavistock Centre, said: "My basic plea is, please believe the children because we usually find they are absolutely right."

One of the report's recommendations is for "personal safety skills" to be taught to children at school. This should cover the issue of "appropriate and inappropriate touch", it says. Children might also be given more general "assertion training" for self-protection.

The report adds: "Children need to know of their exclusive rights over their own body,

particularly their sexual or 'private' parts."

Ms Okell Jones said she had secured financial backing for a film on abuse to be shown in schools but it was proving difficult to attract official support.

Among the recommendations are an agreed definition of abuse to include incest, intercourse and other sexual activity. The report also calls for police child-abuse liaison officers to be appointed.

Court proceedings should not take longer than three months because of the trauma involved, and probation orders requiring medical treatment should be the usual sentence.

Child Sexual Abuse Within the Family, (CIBA Foundation, £12.95 and £5.95, Tavistock Publications).

Man pushed bodies through streets

A youth described to a jury yesterday how he wheeled the bodies of a workmate and his girl friend through deserted London streets at the dead of night.

David Carty, aged 18, told the Central Criminal Court that he wrapped Michelle Sadler and Robert Vaughan, both aged 17, loaded them on to a trolley and pushed them from Union Street to Mint Street, Southwark. There, he left them in a dumper truck at a children's adventure playground.

Carty, of Linsey Street, Rotherhithe, south-east London, denies murdering them on February 4 in the basement of Courier Display Systems in Union Street, where he and Robert worked.

Speaking from the witness box, Carty said he and Robert worked overtime that Saturday and Robert brought Michelle.

Carty said he left after a short time, walked to the West End and returned to the workshop to find their dead bodies. Speaking between long pauses, he said he tried to clear up the blood in the men's lavatory where he found Robert.

He said he filled a plastic container with water to wash away the blood. He could not sweep it away. He cleaned the floor with paper towels and removed blood from the walls with them and a knife.

Carty said he undid the wire knot with which Michelle's head was tied to shelving in the workroom.

"Her head was at a funny angle. I picked her up and carried her to the same room where I had put Robert's body."

He wrapped both bodies in plastic, put the girl's clothing in a plastic bag and left. He threw the plastic bag on the roof of a tea hut.

"Then I just walked around. I don't know why."

Eventually he went home, but during the night, while everyone at his home was asleep, returned to Union Street. "I brought both bodies upstairs. I carried them up. I put them on the trolley."

He put both bodies in a truck and removed the plastic, which he threw away. He returned the trolley to Union Street and went home. That evening police visited him at home.

Mr Alan Green, for the prosecution, has said that Carty sexually assaulted and strangled Michelle, of Chudleigh Street, Stepney, east London, and cut the throat of Robert, of Cherry Gardens Street, Rotherhithe, with a Stanley knife.

Mr Green has alleged that the prints of Carty's trainer shoes were found in the blood.

The hearing continues on Monday.

Council to prosecute man living in hen house

A council has finally won an eight-year legal battle to evict a man from Britain's most luxurious hen hut. A former sailor, Mr James Marsh, aged 58, moved into the hut, measuring 20ft by 15ft, on his smallholding at Pickering, North Yorkshire, in 1976.

He defied the efforts of Ryedale District Council to remove him and installed roof and wall insulation, laid fitted carpets, hung red velvet curtains, and papered the walls.

Last December, after a government inquiry he was given 12 months to move out, and the deadline arrived yesterday.

Mr Paul Duncanson, a council planning official, said that action would probably be taken early next week. He said: "Mr Marsh has been given every opportunity to find alternative living accommodation. Now we must prosecute."

remain firmly bonded until manually released. They are designed for a 200-tonne strain, compared with a maximum of 20 tonnes experienced during a high-powered acceleration, and well under 10 tonnes experienced in normal high-speed running.

Unlike previous BR passenger trains, which were regularly coupled and uncoupled at different parts went to different destinations, most of BR's inter-city stay coupled for long periods.

In the case of the Hereford train there was some doubt yesterday whether the uncoupling occurred before or after the derailment. If the latter, the derailment was no doubt the cause of the uncoupling, although buckeyes are so strong they frequently hold a derailed train together.

Track suffered extensive damage from yesterday's accident, and Western Region predicted last night that the Worcester to Evesham section would remain closed through the weekend.

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Heath attacks fatalism of 'no other way' and policies of 'cut, cut, cut'

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

In an assault on the Government's economic policies, Mr Edward Heath yesterday deplored the "fatalistic belief that nothing can be done to deal with the problem of massive unemployment".

"That fatalism must be overcome, he said. The philosophies which inspired it must be rejected."

He said that although high inflation was a scourge, massive unemployment was the greater threat to the welfare of the individual, the stability of society, the production of future wealth, and the maintenance of Britain's position in the world.

"It leads to rapid increase in crime of violence and descent into social conflict."

All the main strands of the present criticism of the Government, whether by Conservative or Opposition figures, were woven into the speech. Ministers were charged with timidity, rigidity, and dogmatism as well as fatalism; with fallacious beliefs about the economy and failure to understand people's needs.

The occasion was an address by the former Conservative prime minister to the Peel Society at Drayton Manor, Tamworth, Staffordshire, to commemorate the 150th anniversary of Sir Robert Peel's manifesto to the Tamworth electors, in which he announced his belated acceptance of the Reform Act, 1832.

Mr Heath had discovered convenient similarities between

his own and Peel's opinions and careers.

He said: "Peel believed that it was for the Conservatives to tread a path... that encouraged moderate reform and eschewed the extremism of doctrinaire radicalism from the left and the reaction of the Tory ultras on the right."

As in Peel's time, so now it is the party's duty to preserve all that was best in society, "our freedom, our widespread democracy, rule of law, and our traditional toleration". They must unite the nation and defuse conflict and tensions, lest they engulf the state and destroy liberty.

The speech was one of Mr Heath's occasional reminders that there is a faction of the Conservative Party that does not acknowledge Mrs Thatcher as its leader, and that its resistance, and his own, may sometimes languish but will not expire.

He was direct using phraseology that Mrs Thatcher dislikes and spurning hers. He said: "What is required today is the pragmatism of Peel, not the dogmatism of 'There is no other way'. Peel believed in securing value for money, but that did not lead him to the view that money should not be spent."

He noted that economic success after the Second World War had been most striking in Federal Germany and Japan, and put that down to their establishment of consensus in managing their economies.

Mr Heath specifically expressed doubts about the Government's drive for tax cuts, which he feared would draw in consumer goods from abroad, and for zero inflation that would cause an ever greater increase in unemployment than was contemplated.

Instead he called for public investment in the infrastructure and in industrial support, and for recognition of the need for strategic as well as economic reasons to maintain basic industries such as shipbuilding.

Belief in a service society was a dangerous fallacy: we could not live permanently by taking in each other's washing. Mr Heath deplored the failure to distinguish between current and capital spending in the public sector borrowing requirement. Every business recognized the need for capital investment by borrowing, as against the "kitchen sink economics of the housewife". There was ample room for the Chancellor to plan to modernize our infrastructure and our industry.

Mr Heath ended by observing that "people are not motivated by being lectured and lectured, nor are they inspired by the refrain of cut, cut, cut. They want to see the highest quality maintained in public services, and were willing to contribute their fair share to the cost."

"Sir Robert Peel, in his day, recognized this almost more than any other man."

Leading article, page 9



Gemma Knight with her family arriving at Heathrow yesterday.

Liver transplant girl returns

Gemma Knight, aged two, returned to Britain yesterday after her liver transplant operation in the United States.

Gemma, from Bracknell, Berks, was flown to Pittsburgh for the operation last February, after a national appeal. She was at the time given six months to live.

The operation had to be performed in America because British surgeons had no experience of the operation, although

some have subsequently been carried out.

More than £400,000 was raised to pay for the trip and the medical bills which are estimated at about £150,000. Remaining money will be used for research into liver disease.

Gemma's grandparents and other relatives and friends were at Heathrow airport to meet her, her brother Darlyle, aged one, and parents, Sharon and Stephen Knight.

Her mother said yesterday: "She is still a bit chubby from the steroids but that will go. She got very excited when she got off the plane, she did not know why there was such a lot going on. We have been looking forward to getting back for so long."

Gemma will continue taking anti-rejection drugs and is expected to have to return to Pittsburgh for a check-up in coming months.

BBC looks for fleas to join circus

By Tony Samstag

The BBC has placed a classified advertisement in *The Times* in an attempt to cast a performing flea circus for one of its programmes.

So rare has the human flea, *Pulex irritans*, become in Britain that none of the usual

animal suppliers can help.

Siphonists, a word fleas experts use to describe their calling, confess that they are puzzled by the cleverness of the human flea.

The BBC is prepared to pay a

reward of £25 in return for information leading to the recruitment of a suitable cast of fleas. The fleas are to appear in an episode of next year's television series *One by One*, the adventures of a zoo vet, in which a flea circus figures.

£6m US Navy order

Brown Brothers of Edinburgh have won a £6 million order to supply the US Navy with fin stabilizer systems for its warships (Ronald Faux writes).

The stabilizers reduce the roll on a vessel in rough conditions by up to 70 per cent, allowing helicopters and weapons systems to operate more effectively.

The firm, part of Vickers

marine engineering division, was also awarded an option for a further £5 million order. Since 1968 the US Navy has placed orders worth about £60 million with the company.

The stabilizers performed well during the Falklands conflict and have a good reputation with the US Navy, which has the system fitted to 58 FFG-7 frigates.

Consumer call for freer information

The National Consumer Council has called for the repeal of the Official Secrets Act and for parts of it to be replaced with a statutory "right to know".

Mr Michael Montague, chairman of the council, said: "The phrase official secrets conjures up a picture of spies, security and surveillance, but what worries us is official secrecy

where it hits consumers most, in their everyday lives."

Parents were refused the right to see their child's school record, although police and local councillors could, he added. Patients were barred from seeing their own medical records and householders did not have the right to see them, until the last minute that their

property was to be compulsorily purchased.

"Unless people have the right to see what is on file about them, mere gossip or biased comment may be preserved on files for years. What is worrying about so many of these records is that while the individuals themselves may not see them, others may," he said.

PARLIAMENT NOVEMBER 30 1984

Licensing laws

Home Office awaiting Scottish report before contemplating changes

COMMONS

There was no irreconcilable obstacle to changing the law on opening hours of licensed premises, and the case for change had many sympathisers in the Government but the Government had no immediate plans to introduce legislation, Mr David Mellor, Under Secretary of State, Home Office, said in the Commons.

He was replying to a debate on a motion, later withdrawn, that the liquor licensing laws in England and Wales should be revised. He said that the reasons for not introducing immediate legislation were the need to be satisfied that longer or more flexible hours would have no harmful consequences and that there was, as yet, no obvious agreement on what system of flexibility should be adopted.

Mr Robert Hayward (Kingswood, Cl) in moving the motion, said present legislation for England and Wales was based on the assumption that the state knew what was best for individuals rather than allowing them a choice. What was needed was flexible opening hours coupled with a programme of education, starting at an early age, about the dangers of alcohol.

The licensing laws were in a general mess with different rules applying to pubs, clubs, hotels, off-licences and supermarkets. There was an undoubted need for change to bring this patchwork of laws into line with the needs of the 1980s, the 1920s and eventually the twenty-first century.

He suggested the adoption of something similar to the Scottish system which had been seen to be working satisfactorily for a number of years and had resulted in a decrease in drink related offences.

Sir Bernard Braine (Castle Point, Cl), former chairman of the National Council on Alcoholism and currently president of the Greater London Alcohol Advisory Service, said the case for restraint of the drink alcohol had not diminished but grown.

Excessive drinking was the common thread which ran through the commission of crime, violence, marital break-up, non-accidental injuries to children, and death and injury on the roads.

Mr John Ryman (Blyth Valley, Lab): Why should not law-abiding people who drink in moderation and for social pleasure be entitled to drink without being inhibited by the problems of a minute proportion of the population?

Sir Bernard Braine said that was the dilemma and they had to keep a balance. Alcohol was a pleasant adjunct to living and he was not a teetotaler. But it was also a potent drug capable of causing ill-health and premature death. That was why they had licensing laws which had been admired all over the world.

The best way to help the licensee was to stop the proliferation of selling outlets where no restraint could be exercised. He was in favour of public houses and against the proliferation of outlets, the placing of liquor on the impulse-buying shelves of supermarkets.

There was no evidence whatever to suppose that the introduction of more flexible drinking hours in England and Wales would reduce the massive human and economic cost of alcohol abuse. The most that could be said in favour of liberalization was that it would remove a minor inconvenience to the drinking public and foreign tourists and brewers would make larger profits.

Mr John Ryman said he supported a sensible move for reform of the licensing law, based on common sense and judgment and he deplored hysterical appeals made by other people obsessed with neo-totalism spoiling the fun of other people.

Mr James Connaught (Gillingham, Cl) said he was managing director of his family's licensed trade company

operating seven public houses in the London area and he had run, as a manager, a large and busy public house for four years.

Britain had some of the most rigorously controlled drinking anywhere outside the Muslim world. The drinking hours were inappropriate to trading hours today and anachronistic in the fourth quarter of the twentieth century.

The law on permitted hours was failing into some disrepute. The police had more pressing duties to perform.

Mr Clive Saley (Hammer-smith, Lab) for the Opposition, said social behaviour after a certain amount of alcohol had a dramatic impact on other people. Any police officer would say that the busiest time was after closing time on Fridays and Saturdays. That was also the time when there was most violence.

The message from the Labour Party (he said) is that we are not against altering the licensing laws but that to tamper with one aspect of a much wider problem is inviting further problems.

Society must regulate the use of a powerful drug because, if not, they laid themselves open to all sorts of problems.

There was a case for changing licensing hours, but it should be done in the context of wider policy.

Mr Ivan Lawrence (Burton, Cl) said there was evidence of a substantial reduction in drunkenness and lawlessness in Scotland since the revised licensing hours. The gloomsters and doomsters and the kill-joys and the dead-handers could not just brush that fact aside.

It was not just a marginal improvement, the figures were absolutely shattering. They showed a reduction of 41 per cent in drunkenness linked offences at a time when there had been a

reduction of 9 per cent in the same figures in England and Wales.

Mr Mellor said the extended opening hours in Scotland had led not to an increase in drunkenness but to more responsible and more leisurely drinking. The drinking hours were indications of the effects of the 1976 Scottish legislation had been encouraging.

The forecast that longer opening hours would result in a dramatic increase in drunkenness and drink-drive offences had proved inaccurate. Available statistics pointed to no significant adverse effects.

But he would add a note of caution. It would be dangerous to assume that the reduction of drunkenness north of the border was attributable directly and specifically to the change in the licensing laws. There might well be other factors at work. It was not escapism to say there was need to look further.

The obstacle to the path of reform was the serious problems caused by alcohol misuse. At this week's BMA conference on alcoholism some disturbing statistics were given. Alcoholism was getting worse and they had to ask whether a change in the licensing laws would make any difference.

As a Home Office minister he was particularly troubled by the impact of drink on crime. He hardly ever read a file including those of people convicted of murder in which the influence of alcohol was not pointed out as a material factor in relation to the crime. He was deeply troubled by the number of crimes of violence associated with drink.

On the other hand, some people considered the more phased removal of people from public houses to their homes might reduce crime. If they were able, as they hoped, to have available by next summer the report of the survey that the Secretary of State for Scotland was having undertaken by the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys into effects of the 1976 legislation, then they might have made a material step forward.

Personally, he would be happy if the result of the Scottish survey convinced not only the Government, but those opposed to change for reputable reasons, that it was safe to contemplate relaxation of the law. There had to be a firm foundation of evidence. It could not be done on a wish and a prayer.

Mr Hayward said it would be worthwhile to have legislation in the form of a bill and he withdrew his motion knowing that no matter at what time he did so, he and other MPs, unlike the rest of the population, could withdraw from a drink.



Hayward: Flexible hours needed

Law Report December 1 1984 Court of Appeal

Particularity of documents in requests

In re Asbestos Insurance Coverage Cases

Before Lord Justice Eveleigh, Lord Justice O'Connor and Lord Justice Slade

[Judgment delivered November 20]

The Court of Appeal, in a reserved judgment, considered section 2(4) of the Evidence (Proceedings in other Jurisdictions) Act 1975 in giving effect to a request by letters rogatory issued by the Superior Court of the State of California for the City and County of San Francisco in favour of four American corporations.

Their Lordships (1) dismissed an appeal by the applicants, Sedgwick Group plc, Sedgwick Overseas Group Ltd, Mr Philip Crane, Mr William Parton and Mr David Thistle-Smith from the refusal of Mr Justice O'Connor to set aside or discharge orders of the court requiring Mr Crane, Mr Parton and Mr Thistle-Smith to attend to give testimony; and (2) by a majority (Lord Justice Slade dissenting) also dismissed in part the applicants' appeal against the judge's order to produce documents requested in the letters rogatory.

Mr Nicholas Phillips, QC and Mr Christopher Symons for the applicants; Mr Michael Burton, QC, for the American corporations.

LORD JUSTICE EVELEIGH said that four American corporations, being asbestos manufacturers, were engaged in disputes with insurers in proceedings in California. Lloyd's underwriters were among the insurers involved.

The manufacturers sought to obtain proof of the existence and contents of policies and if necessary to reconstruct their terms by reference to standard terms in operation at the relevant times.

On the application of the manufacturers letters rogatory were issued in California requesting the assistance of the High Court in England under the Convention on the Taking of Evidence Abroad in Civil or Commercial Matters signed at The Hague on March 18, 1970, to which effect was given by the Evidence (Proceedings in other Jurisdictions) Act 1975.

Section 2(4) (a) excluded an inquiry into what documents a person had or had had and section 2(4) (b) by limiting production to particular documents specified in the order. The court's assistance where it would be necessary for the person concerned to ask himself what relevant documents he had.

The request for documents was directed to the Sedgwick Group plc, Sedgwick Overseas Group Ltd, and Sedgwick North America Ltd. So far as relevant to the appeal the documents requested were:

(1) The written instructions for insurance... reflecting the insurance policies specified in exhibit 1 hereto.

(2) The written instructions to Sedgwick from the plaintiffs or their agents to obtain the insurance policies referred to in (1) above.

(3) The documents, in the form of a comprehensive personal injury and property damage "umbrella" liability policies in use in the London insurance market during the period 1950 through 1960.

(4) The written applications... reflecting the insurance policies referred to in (1) above.

(5) The exemplars of Price Fosters & Co Ltd's comprehensive personal injury and property damage "umbrella" liability policies in use in the London insurance market during the period 1950 through 1960.

Objection was made to the production of the written instructions referred to in (b) on the ground that the documents were not sufficiently particularised.

The fact that several documents might be asked for compendiously did not necessarily mean that a document was individually specified. The comprehensive formula might be no more than a matter of drafting. Thus it would have been possible to set out each of the policies appearing in exhibit 1 and to make a request in terms of (b) in relation to each.

However, the appellants referred to the words of Lord Diplock in *In re Westinghouse Electric Corp. Uranium Contract Litigation* (M.D.L. Docket No 235 (1978) AC 547 635): "The requirements of subsection (4) (b), however, are not in my view satisfied by the specification of classes of documents. What is called for is the specification of particular documents' which I would construe as meaning individual documents separately described."

His Lordship was unable to regard Lord Diplock as saying that each individual document had to be separately listed as one document and then described with a particularity that might be expected from a person who had that document in his hand. The judge was right to allow the request under (b).

Items (c) would not be allowed. The request would impose on brokers the duty to give general discovery which section 2(4)(a) did not permit.

What had been said in relation to (b) applied also to (g), and what had been said in relation to (c) applied also to (h).

The request (j) was for those documents ("exemplars") which were the specimen policies available in the London insurance market during the period mentioned. It was clear enough what was wanted.

The fact that the terms contained

in such documents might be unknown to the applicants would not make the request a fishing request. The applicants did not have to show that they knew the contents of the documents, but only that there was such a document. The judge was right to order their production.

In relation to the order requiring the attendance of witnesses, it was not appropriate nor was it a practical proposition, for the English court to inquire into whether or not the witness was able to give the evidence expected of him in every respect which appeared commended itself to the requesting court. The English court had to be satisfied that the application was made in pursuance of a request issued by the requesting court and that the evidence was to be obtained for the purpose of civil proceedings before that court but nowhere did the Act impose upon the High Court the duty to determine whether or not the request was properly made.

It was of course true that the Act merely gave the power to make an order and did not say that the court was able to say that the requesting court had been misled to such an extent that in the exercise of discretion the request would not be granted.

If on examination a witness was asked questions that were beyond his competence he could say so.

LORD JUSTICE SLADE said that his approach to the construction of section 2(4) was similar to that of Lord Justice Eveleigh. The point at which he found himself differing from him was in his conclusions as to the application of

section 2(4) to the facts of the instant case.

In regard to item (b) the order, in its context, was in substance, one for production of such document or documents as might be written by or on behalf of the plaintiffs for the purpose of obtaining each of the respective policies.

That was not an order for production of "particular documents"; it was an order for production of classes or descriptions of documents contrary to the provisions of section 2(4) (b) of the 1975 Act, as interpreted by the House of Lords in *Westinghouse*.

Therefore, following the strict attitude which the *Westinghouse* decision compelled the court to take in giving effect to foreign requests for the production of documents by non-party witnesses, his Lordship would refuse an order for production of item (b).

For much the same reasons, *mutatis mutandis*, he would refuse orders for production of item (g), the "written instructions" referred to in item (c), the "written applications" referred to in item (d), and the "exemplars" referred to in item (j).

His Lordship would dismiss the appeal so far as it related to oral evidence but would allow the appeal so far as it related to items (b) and (g) and the disputed parts of items (c), (d) and (j) of the letters rogatory.

LORD JUSTICE O'CONNOR agreed with Lord Justice Eveleigh.

Solicitors: Herbert Smith & Co; Coward Chance.

Notes to be taken when judge meets counsel

Regina v Callan

Although in certain circumstances it was appropriate for a judge to talk to counsel in his private rooms before the start of a trial, the guidelines for such a discussion which were laid down in *R v Turner* (1970) 2 QB 321 must be observed. Also, the initiative for the judge seeing counsel should come from the Bar and not from the judge.

Lord Justice Watkins, sitting in the Court of Appeal with Mr Justice Michael Davies, so stated on November 26 when allowing in part an appeal by Michael Joseph Callan against the sentence imposed on him on June 16, 1983 at Acton

Crown Court (Judge Coulthard) when he was convicted of the theft of £700, but was acquitted of two other counts on the indictment.

Their Lordships quashed a sentence of nine months imprisonment, suspended for two years, and an order to pay £350 towards the prosecution costs. A fine of £350 with an alternative of 56 days' imprisonment, and a compensation order of £700 was unaffected.

HIS LORDSHIP said that in this case no note was taken during counsel's visit to the judge, and the recollections of what had transpired in the judge's private rooms directed.

However, where, as here, a message was carried therefrom to the person awaiting trial that in no circumstances would a custodial sentence be passed, it was wholly that the Court of Appeal would be able to uphold any sentence of imprisonment passed thereon.

THE PERFECT WOOLIES WASHER

FAMOUS EASY PRESSURE WASHER

NEEDS NO PLUMBING

ELECTRICITY OR MAINTENANCE

... (text continues) ...

CLASSIC MAIL ORDER LTD 488

... (text continues) ...

Solidarity priest died of suffocation and not from beating, report says

Father Jerzy Popieluszko, the pro-Solidarity priest allegedly kidnapped and killed by secret policemen, died of suffocation and was not beaten to death, according to the results of a post-mortem examination due to be released to the Polish public last night.

The findings may give counsel for the three men accused of having the murder charge reduced. If it can be shown that the priest suffocated because he was put in the boot of the getaway car, soon after being kidnapped on the Torun road on October 19, then lawyers could argue that the three policemen should not be tried for murder under Article 148 of the penal code, but for taking part in a fight which led to the death of the priest.

The latter provides for a minimum one-year sentence under Article 158 (Paragraph 3), compared to the possible death sentence on murder charges.

Second big chess win by US team

Salonika (Reuters) - The United States followed up their defeat of the Soviet Union by beating Hungary in the tenth-round of the Chess Olympiad here. This raised the Americans' hopes of finishing second to the Russians in the 14-round contest.

A feature of their clash with Hungary was the defeat of Lajos Portisch, the top Magyar, by Lubomir Kavalek.

YOUTH ROUND RESULTS: USSR 3, Bulgaria 1.5; Hungary 1.5, Yugoslavia 2.5; Sweden 1.5, England 2.5; Romania 1.5, Iceland 2.5; Chile 1.5, France 2.5; Canada 2, Philippines 1.5; West Germany 2.5, Cuba 2.5; Colombia 1.5, Denmark 2.5; Australia 1.5.

MEN'S STANDINGS: USSR 28, US 26, Yugoslavia 25, England 25, Sweden 24, Hungary 24, Romania 24, Bulgaria 24, Canada 24, Philippines 24, West Germany 24, Cuba 24, Colombia 24, Denmark 24, Australia 24.

WOMEN'S RESULTS: USSR 3, India 2.5; Poland 1.5, Bulgaria 1.5; China 2, Romania 1; West Germany 1.5, Spain 1.5; England 2, Yugoslavia 1; US 3, France 3; Ireland 0.5, Israel 2.5; Philippines 2, W. Germany 2; Poland 2.5, Turkey 0.5; Belgium 1.5, Greece 2.5; Egypt 2.5, India 1.5; Indonesia 2.5, Paraguay 0.5; Wales 2.5, Austria 2.5; Hong Kong 0.5, Mexico 2.5 (1 adj); Zimbabwe 2, Trinidad 2; Jamaica 2.5, Papua New Guinea 1.5.

WOMEN'S STANDINGS: USSR 24, Bulgaria 23.5, China 23, West Germany 23, England 19.5, Hungary 19 (one game adj), US 18.

● MOSCOW - Gary Kasparov, the challenger, took his fourth straight win in the marathon world chess championship which Anatoly Karpov, the titleholder, is leading by five wins to zero. Next game will be on Monday.

● The Central Committee of the International Chess Federation decided to accept a Greek offer to host the Chess Olympiads every four years.

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

chance of this happening. First, the prosecution will argue that every stage of the kidnapping showed that the policemen intended to murder the priest.

Second, the accused are facing a range of other charges - depriving the priest of freedom; using violence; a previous kidnapping attempt on the priest and the ill-treatment of his priest's driver.

Third, the accused have still not engaged defence counsel, even though proceedings will probably begin soon.

It has taken almost a month to prepare the post-mortem report, under the supervision of Professor Maria Byrdia. The results are cautious, not drawing any large conclusions but rather ruling out some possible causes of death and quashing rumours.

The priest was not, as was at first rumoured, tortured to death or even shot. He was beaten. The doctors said he was dead before being dropped into a reservoir.

The church hierarchy was briefed on the latest developments in the Popieluszko investigation during a church-state session on Thursday and was given the final results of the post-mortem examination.

The Patriotic Front for National Reconciliation, a state-sponsored group which tries to promote dialogue between the communist authorities and non-communist but sympathetic groupings, has also been given information about the manner of the priest's death.

The trial will be open to the Western press, though if it is held in Torun there will be little space in the court-room for reporters. The accused were said to have been "cocky" during interrogation.

On Wednesday night General Jaruzelski, the Polish leader, told reporters that the prospect of a trial ending in a death sentence might prod the accused into revealing who stood behind them. The search for the instigators was continuing.

Competing ideologies lay claim to Grenada airport

From Christopher Thomas, St George's, Grenada

It must be the most political airport in the world. The Communists of Cuba started it, the capitalists of America are finishing it. The pro-Cubans in Grenada want to name it after Maurice Bishop, the murdered Marxist prime minister. Fervent pro-Americans favour calling it Ronald Reagan International Airport.

It sits in incongruous splendour on a finger of land in the south-west of the island, a glittering symbol of polarized politics, a model of waste in an island of need.

General election candidates of various political extremes have used it as an example of the wondrous things could be achieved under their respective systems. It is Grenada's pride and joy, a sort of 10,000 ft symbol of national manhood.

The airport was named with deliberate neutrality the Point Salines International Airport. It is in a smart section of the island, where well-do-do businessmen and prosperous expatriates live in palm-shaded houses beside the sea.

They do not mind the noise of the occasional jet. It sounds like the jingle of cash registers.

The terminal buildings, three storeys high, are not yet completed. No passengers are directed into a wooden hut - a former barracks for Cuban work crews.

It has been painted a smart white, and seems perfectly adequate for the trickle of

people who pass in and out. The main terminal casts its long shadow over the hut, emphasizing the absurd contrast between the airport Grenada needs and the one it has got.

The annual cost of operating the airport is probably about \$100m. The cost of a domestic product of Grenada is \$100m. The American contribution to finishing the airport is about \$50m.

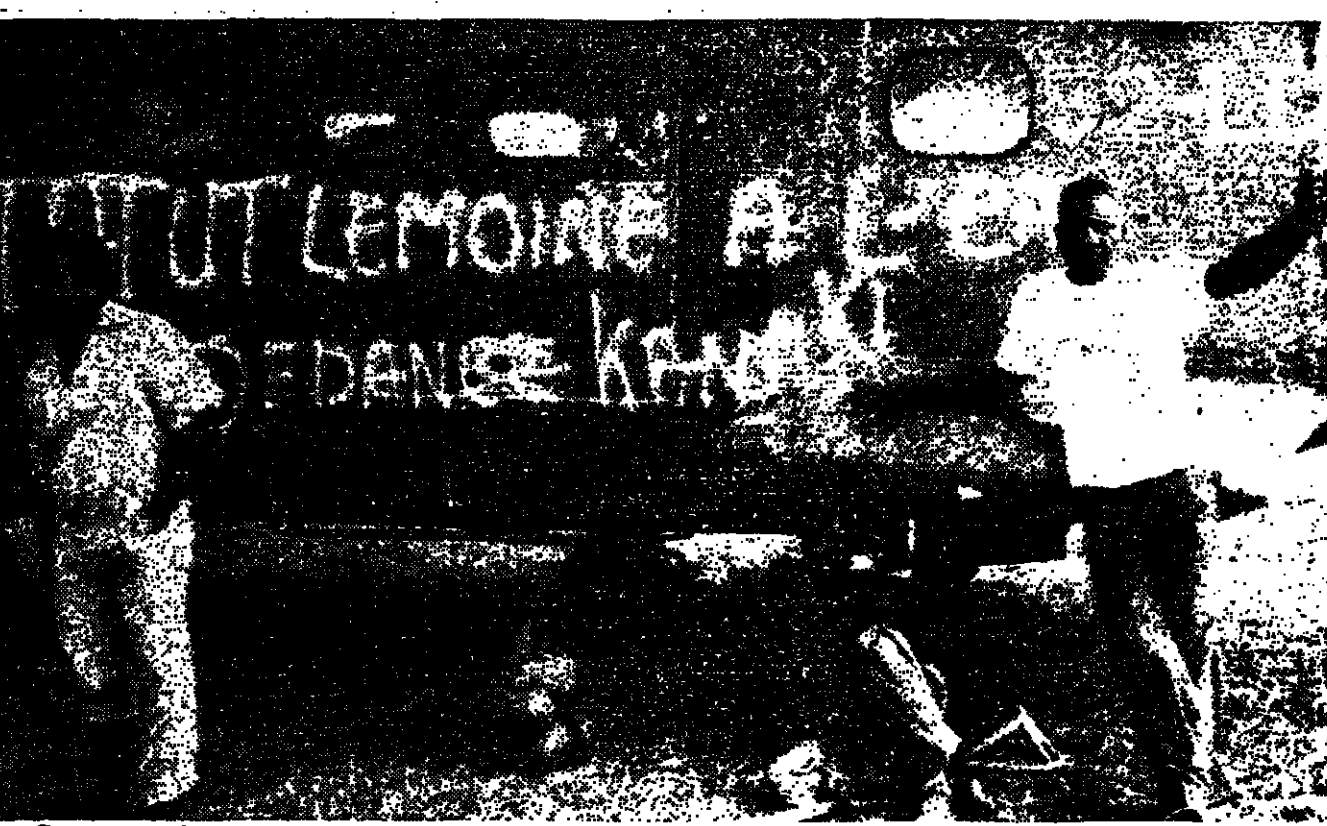
One commercial jet a week lands there, a BWIA DC 10 from Florida en route to other more populous destinations. If it disgorged all its passengers in Grenada there would not be enough hotel space to go around, which makes it patently absurd to suggest the airport is necessary to boost the tourist industry.

According to official figures the island has 500 hotel beds, 200 of which are occupied by US Army personnel.

President Reagan said after the invasion that the airport would not be completed with the full runway, which he said was intended for military use by the Cubans.

He changed his mind, and Grenadian politicians of all hues say it is now the envy of the Caribbean.

The Grenada Hotel Association wants the island to go up-market, not mass market. The overriding motive is to keep out the chain hotels, which would squeeze the Grenadian hotel owners.



Separatist message: Kanaks with a French military helicopter on which they have written independence slogans.

Women fly out after New Caledonia killing

Koumac, New Caledonia (AFP Reuters) - Dozens of European women and children were being evacuated by air yesterday from northern New Caledonia, where a European man was killed on Thursday in a gunfight with Melanesian separatists.

It was not clear whether French officials had ordered the evacuation towards Noumea, which has been largely unaffected by the past two weeks of separatist violence.

One woman said men had been given an order to evacuate

their wives and children, but she did not say where the order had come from. Two Canadian mine workers, however, appeared to indicate the evacuation was voluntary.

The evacuation, by small aircraft from a dirt airstrip at the north-western tip of the island, came after a clash in which a man of French descent, Emile Mezère, was killed and several people wounded.

Confusion remained as to how the incident began. According to one version, it happened after Kanaks, or indigenous Melane-

sians, became angered by a rumour that Europeans had taken four Kanaks prisoner. Another version said Mezère was shot after he had tried to persuade Kanaks to let him through a roadblock.

His death was the first since trouble broke out on November 18, when a white-dominated National Assembly was elected to run the territory until an independence referendum planned for 1989.

The killing prompted Noumea's mayor, Mr Roger Laroque, to call on the capital's

45,000 whites to stage a protest strike today, turning the city into a "dead area".

Another European, Mr Eugène Gaurin, who is in his seventies, was severely beaten on Thursday and left for dead by his Kanak assailants. Koumac residents said the attack was the beginning of a big confrontation.

New Caledonia's National Assembly president, Mr Dick Likwe, flew to Paris yesterday to urge President Mitterrand to take firmer action against militants.

Gulf states form rapid deployment force

Kuwait, (Reuters) - Six conservative Arab Gulf states have formed a joint defence force to react quickly to any attack from outside the region, Gulf officials said.

Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmed al-Sabah, Kuwait's Foreign Minister, told a news conference on Thursday that Oman, Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, all members of the Gulf Cooperation Council, had contributed contingents.

The minister, speaking at the end of a three-day conference of council heads of state, said the force was a temporary expedient and its mandate would eventually be reviewed.

He gave no details of its size, structure or capabilities, but authoritative Kuwaiti sources said that at a meeting earlier this year defence ministers agreed to set up a two-brigade unit under the command of a senior Saudi officer.

Mr Abdullah Bishara, the council's secretary-general, told reporters: "The force is alive and well. Its significance is more political and symbolic than military."

The number of men was not as important as the fact that the new force could move fast in an emergency, Mr Bishara added.

The creation of what is in essence a rapid redeployment force underlines the deep concern of the Gulf states at the continuing war between Iraq and Iran and their fears that the conflict could spill over into the Arabian Peninsula.

The six countries, which have relatively small populations, have already held joint exercises and spend substantial proportions of their revenues from oil on advanced military equipment from Europe and the United States.

The four-year-old Gulf war dominated the summit and the meeting ended with a announcement that the heads of state had drafted ideas to promote a dialogue between the warring parties. Shiekh Sabah said this meant working through all possible channels and encouraging mediation by the United Nations, the Islamic Conference organization and the Non-Aligned Movement.

Cambodia trip angers Asean

From David Watts, Tokyo

January as president of the Parliamentarians' League for Japan-Vietnam Friendship, with five other members of the Japanese Diet.

The Asean countries are concerned that Mr Sakurachi's visit will be interpreted by Phnom Penh as endorsement of President Heng Samrin's Government, installed after the former Khmer Rouge regime in 1979.

Mr Sakurachi plans to visit Vietnam and Cambodia in

constant diplomatic battle to prevent erosion of support for the Khmer coalition led by Prince Norodom Sihanouk, which encompasses both the communist and non-communist elements of the Khmer resistance to Heng Samrin.

Japan does not officially recognize the Phnom Penh Government.

One Asean diplomat said Mr Sakurachi's visit could be taken as tacit acceptance of the Heng Samrin Government.

Asean leaders are fighting a

Peking Man's bones mislaid for 10 years

Peking (Reuters) - Chinese scientists dug up bones of a primeval ape man called *homo erectus* 10 years ago but mistook them for animal remains, a Peking archaeologist said yesterday.

Professor Lu Zun'er said his team dug up a nearly complete skeleton of *homo erectus*, or Peking Man, in September. Researchers remembered the earlier bones and found them in sacks into which they had been thrown. The two sets were discovered near each other in Lianning province in the north-east of the country.

Professor Lu told the *Chinese Daily* that the 1974 excavations were carried out hastily by non-specialists during the Cultural Revolution, which left academic research in chaos. Quarrymen threw away many bones as worthless.

Chinese scientists say the latest find is valuable for research into these early men, who walked upright and used fire and tools between 200,000 and a million years ago.

Sharon libel trial told of secret Israeli report

New York (Reuters) - A *Time* magazine reporter, testifying in a \$50m (£42m) libel suit, admitted yesterday he was never explicitly told that a key allegation against Mr Ariel Sharon was contained in a secret Israeli report.

Mr Sharon is suing *Time* over a story which he argues, infers that he instigated a massacre of Palestinians at refugee camps outside Beirut in 1982, when he was Israel's Defence Minister.

The story cited a secret appendix to an official Israeli inquiry as saying that Mr Sharon discussed the need for revenge with the family of assassinated Lebanese President-elect Bashir Gemayel.

David Halevy, the *Time* reporter who supplied the information for the key paragraph in the story, told the court yesterday his sources never explicitly said that the secret appendix contained such a charge.

"It was very clear to me at that time from what I got from my sources... that there was a case against General Sharon between the lines," Mr Halevy said.

Mr Sharon's lawyer, Mr Milton Gould, demanded: "You wondered where it was and you said it must be in Appendix B (the secret appendix)." Mr Halevy replied: "We reached a conclusion. There is a case against General Sharon

between the lines... and that it is probably in Appendix B."

He said he checked with an Israeli government official who had seen Appendix B, but the man refused to describe what was in it.

More than 500 men, women and children were killed at the Sabra and Chatila camps by followers of the murdered Bashir Gemayel. Mr Sharon met the Gemayel family the day before. The court adjourned

Law Report December 1 1984 Court of Appeal

Association tenants not protected

Clays Lane Housing Cooperative Ltd v Patrick and Another. Before Lord Justice Stephenson, Lord Justice Fox and Lord Justice Purches.

Judgment delivered November 21. Tenancies granted by housing associations were removed from the protection given by the Rent Act 1977 and the Housing Act 1980 because Parliament regarded the associations as responsible landlords who would treat their tenants fairly.

In practice tenants who complied with their obligations could expect a high degree of security and if they were in breach of their obligations they would be treated fairly. But that position was not the consequence of the legal obligations imposed on the associations.

The Court of Appeal, in a reserved judgment, allowed an appeal by Clays Lane Housing Cooperative Ltd against an order dated December 20, 1983, of Judge Dobry, QC, at Bow County Court, whereby he allowed the appeal of the defendant member of the cooperative, Miss Beverly Patrick, against the order of Mrs Registrar Vickers dated October 17, 1983, that the cooperative should recover possession against the defendant members, Miss Patrick and Mr Eric Clarendon, within 28 days and £260.50 for arrears of rent and mesne profits and costs and ordered a new trial.

Revoking community service order

Regina v Grays Justices & Another, Ex parte Aldwinkle

A magistrates' court had the jurisdiction under section 17(2) of the Powers of Criminal Courts Act 1973 to revoke a community service order (where the court was acting for the petty sessions area specified in the order) or revoke the order and deal with the offender as if the order had not been made, where an

applicant's community service order of 180 hours imposed on September 7, 1983, and substituted a sentence of six weeks imprisonment.

LORD JUSTICE FOX, giving the judgment of the court, said that by clause 2 of a tenancy agreement of February 19, 1983, and made between the plaintiff cooperative and the defendant members of the cooperative, the cooperative let to the members a room at the property for one week from January 1, 1983, and thereafter from week to week until brought to an end either by the cooperative or the member giving to the other not less than four weeks' notice in writing. The rent was £24.70 a week.

Clause 7 was headed "Ending the tenancy" and provided, *inter alia*, that (a) the agreement may be ended at any time by either the cooperative or the member giving to the other not less than four weeks' written notice. (b) The cooperative may give the member four weeks' written notice that the tenancy is terminated for any of the following reasons: (i) any rent due from the member, after being given notice of the amount of the arrears, has made no offer to pay those arrears within

unreasonably failed to fulfil an undertaking previously given to clear arrears.

By June 1983 the defendant members were in arrears with the rent. On June 3 the cooperative gave them notice to quit expiring on July 4.

It was not in dispute that, under the provisions of clause 7(b) (i) the cooperative was entitled to give such notice to quit. The members having failed to give possession, the cooperative in August 1983 instituted proceedings in the County Court for possession of the property, mesne profits and arrears of rent.

Two questions arose for decision before Judge Dobry, namely: (1) Was the tenancy created by agreement a "secure tenancy" for the purposes of section 28 of the Housing Act 1980? The judge held that it was not. There was no appeal from that decision.

(2) Were the members entitled to relief from forfeiture? The judge held that clause 7(b) (i) constituted a right of re-entry or forfeiture and that accordingly section 191 of the County Courts Act 1959 was applicable.

The judge accordingly granted relief against forfeiture to the members under section 191(1) (b) suspending the possession order if the arrears of rent be paid off within 28 days.

The statute referred to a right of re-entry or forfeiture but, for present purposes, the issue could be stated as whether clause 7(b) constituted a provision for forfeiture on non-payment of rent.

In the present case what was granted was a weekly tenancy. That could, at common law, be determined on one week's notice. Under clause 2 the contractual period of notice was not less than four weeks. That was necessary to comply with section 5 of the Protection from Eviction Act 1977. All that clause 7 did was to restrict the cooperative's power to give such notice to the events specified in clause 7(b).

Thus, here the critical matter was the nature of the tenant members' estate in the land. All that those members had under the tenancy agreement was a weekly tenancy.

Clause 7 so far from entrenching on the rights, in relation to termination, otherwise attaching to such a tenancy either under the general law or the agreement itself merely altered them in favour of the members. The position came nowhere near forfeiture.

The agreement granted what it purported to grant, namely, a weekly tenancy determinable in specified events upon four weeks' notice. That was not a case of forfeiture.

Solicitors: Collyer-Bristow, Bowling & Co.

Legal aid fund liability in hopeless appeals

Wilkin v Smith

Where hopeless appeals failed and questions arose as to the liability of the legal aid fund, it was for consideration whether counsel and solicitors might not have the full facts, the Master of the Rolls said in the Court of Appeal sitting with Lord Justice Oliver and Mr Justice Neill on November 15.

The plaintiff, who was legally aided, appealed unsuccessfully against Mr Justice Talbot's dismissal of his motor accident personal injuries claim on January 25, 1983. Giving the leading judgment Lord Justice Oliver said it was a hopeless appeal.

The MASTER OF THE ROLLS added that he was concerned about the legal aid fund and wondered whether counsel and solicitors might not have got the full facts.

It was a very serious matter for public money to be used and private money on the other side in hopeless appeals. It was a matter for the legal aid authorities to look at if they wished.

An order nisi for costs against the Legal Aid Fund was made under section 13 of the Legal Aid Act 1974.

applicant's community service order of 180 hours imposed on September 7, 1983, and substituted a sentence of six weeks imprisonment.

LORD JUSTICE ROBERT GOFF said that the words "any such application" in section 17(2) meant the application of the offender or the relevant officer, and did not refer to an application to extend the period of 12 months mentioned in section 17(1).

Moreover, in section 14(5) it was provided that the court imposing a community service order was required to explain to the offender that the court under section 17 had the power to review the order on the offender's application or that of a probation officer.

Time limits must be observed

Regina v Carter, Ex parte Lipson

Mr Justice Hodgson, sitting in the Queen's Bench Division on November 29, said that would-be litigants ought not to disregard the time limits laid down for moving for judicial review and said that the court required sound reasons before it would extend the period.

Powers of attorney

Walia and Others v Michael Naughton Ltd

A general power of attorney in the form specified by section 10 of and Schedule 1 to the Powers of Attorney Act 1971 was not appropriate to entitle the donee of the power to execute on behalf of the donor a transfer of property when the transferee was himself a trustee of the property, notwithstanding that he had a beneficial interest in the property.

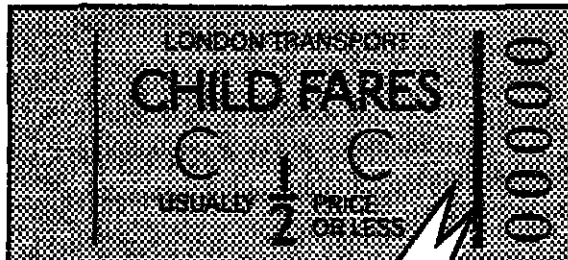
Judge John Finlay, QC, sitting as a judge of the Chancery Division so held on November 16, granting the plaintiffs' declarations that the defendant had not yet shown good title to property which the plaintiffs had contracted to buy from it and that a notice to complete served by

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Tamil rebels kill 80 in attacks on farms in northern Sri Lanka

From Donovan Moldrich, Colombo

At least 80 Sinhalese civilians settled on two farms for former prisoners at Padaviya in the North-Central Province were killed early yesterday morning by a large force of Tamil separatists. Troops rushed to the spot by helicopter killed 30 rebels later in the day.

Dollar Farm and Kent Farm are resettlement schemes for discharged prisoners or those about to be discharged. According to the Government sources 60 former prisoners were killed on Dollar Farm and 20 on Kent Farm, where they had half-acre homesteads.

Dr Wickrema Weerasoorie, the Government spokesman, described the situation in Sri Lanka as "very, very serious". He said the Government has been expecting attacks by the rebels, especially in the North, on the basis of reports from the National Intelligence Bureau.

Dr Weerasoorie said that on Thursday rebels had attacked and demolished a building which had been used earlier by

the police at Kankesanthurai in the extreme north of the island, but the police had evacuated the building a couple of days earlier and moved to another location.

He added that the National Intelligence Bureau had informed the Government that 4,000 Tamil rebels who had come or were coming from Tamil Nadu in India would attempt more attacks like the one on Chavakachcheri police station on November 21, in which 27 policemen and three civilians were killed.

The Government announced yesterday evening that a six-hour curfew would be in force from 10 pm. The state radio said it was being imposed as a precautionary measure, to head off possible retaliation by Sinhalese against Jaffa in the Colombo area.

In Jaffa and two other northern districts, Kilinochchi and Mullaitivu, the curfew became operative at 4 pm yesterday, while in two other northern districts, Mannar and

Vavuniya, and the Eastern Province district of Batticaloa the curfew was imposed at 6 pm, to be lifted in all areas at 6 am today.

The Government announced last night that the combined security services were in complete control of the Padaviya area where the rebels had earlier attacked the two farms, which are about five miles apart.

Official sources said the rebel force, which belonged to the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, one of the biggest separatist groups, had used bombs and guns in the pre-dawn attack. The armed services were combing the entire area for the attackers, and helicopters and ground forces were being used in the search. The sources denied reports that rebel attacks were continuing.

The deaths of 80 civilians represent the biggest loss of life inflicted by the rebels in any single incident since the campaign for a separate state began eight years ago.

Salvadoran rebels stress need for peace

Ayacuato, El Salvador (AP) - Salvadoran guerrilla delegates and government representatives began a second round of peace talks here yesterday with a guerrilla leader calling for intensified negotiations to end the civil war as soon as possible.

The first round of exploratory talks on October 15 ended with both sides agreeing on only one item - yesterday's meeting. Attending the first session were President Duarte and Señor Guillermo Ungo, head of the left-wing rebels' political front, the FDR.

Yesterday's meeting at a religious retreat in Government-held territory involved lower-level delegates who, according to their leaders, would concentrate on possible prisoner exchanges and treatment of the wounded in the war, which has claimed 59,000 lives since it began five years ago.

Security was tight at Ayacuato, 12 miles south of the capital, at the request of the rebels. Hundreds of soldiers in battle gear patrolled the grounds of the Roman Catholic retreat.

A guerrilla representative in the crowd of about 1,500 outside the talks distributed what he said was his side's answer to an earlier government offer of amnesty and guarantees of safety in exchange for the rebels' incorporation into the democratic process.

The document bore the seal of the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front and the Democratic Revolutionary Front, the two left-wing umbrella groups attending the talks. Some similar documents passed out at the first round of talks turned out to be counterfeit.

Señor Julio Adolfo Ray Prendes, a member of the Government is delegation, said on arrival: "We are expecting an answer from the FMLN-FDR to know how they are going to respond to our peace offer."

● SAN SALVADOR: A Salvadoran Army officer accused of organizing the 1984 killings of two United States labour advisers and of the head of the country's land redistribution programme has been discharged from the Army without pension, according to a aide of president Duarte (New York Times report).

President Duarte ordered the discharge on Wednesday after consulting the Army High Command. The officer, Lieutenant López Sibrian, is officially being discharged for unspecified "military reasons," the aide said.

Asked if the murder case charges against the lieutenant had affected the decision, the aide said: "It may be that López Sibrian was no longer suited to the institution of the armed forces."

The dismissal comes barely a week after the Salvadoran Supreme Court cleared Lieutenant López Sibrian of charges in the case, effectively ending all legal action against him.

Cyprus Turks offer breakthrough hope

From Zoriana Pysariwsky, New York

In a dramatic move which could break the diplomatic impasse on efforts to end the division of Cyprus, the Turkish Cypriot community has offered important concessions and effectively left the ball in the Greek Cypriot court.

Mr Rauf Denktaş, the leader of the Turkish Cypriots, announced on Thursday that his side was in complete agreement with the peace plan put forward by Señor Pérez de Cuellar, the United Nations Secretary-General. The move came only four days into the third round of the UN-sponsored proximity talks on Cyprus.

During the 10-day recess requested by President Kyprianou, who has flown home for consultations with the Cypriot internal political parties and Athens, the Greek Cypriots must decide whether to brush aside the Turkish Cypriot overtures as insincere or risk being called intransigent, or accept proposals that require a big political sacrifice.

The Turkish Cypriots are understood to have agreed to retain 29 per cent of the 37 per cent of Cyprus under occupation and have given up the idea of a rotating presidency.

They would also be bound in the first stage of the three-phase agreement to hand over the east coast resort town of Varosha and six other zones to a temporary UN administration for Greek-Cypriot resettlement.

Nevertheless, the main compromise must come from the Greek Cypriots who would have to relinquish full control of their internationally recognized government to enter a transitional arrangement with the Turks.

Perhaps the most emotive issue for the Greek Cypriots is the Secretary-General's plan for a timetable for withdrawal of Turkish troops, rather than a

guarantee of an immediate pullout.

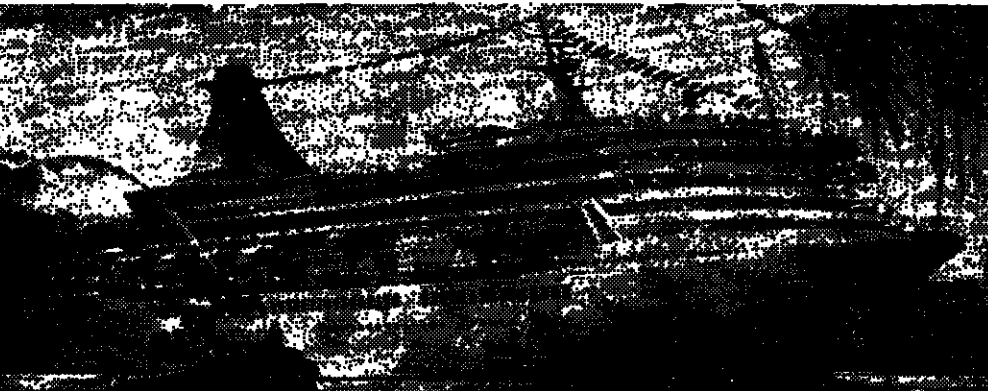
After two rounds of UN proximity talks which made little progress, the Turkish Cypriots are understood to have agreed to the UN peace plan because mainland Turkey is concerned about its damaged international reputation.

Turkish Cypriots have been able to manoeuvre themselves into an advantageous position, no matter what the Greek Cypriots do. Should President Kyprianou find it impossible to accept the peace package, Turkish Cypriots expect the way will then be open for Islamic countries to recognize the Turkish Cypriot state in the north in a move which would almost completely erode the Greek Cypriot position.

● ATHENS: The Turkish Cypriot concessions, apparently "rested after a good deal of pressure from Ankara at the instigation of the United States, have brought the Cyprus question nearer a settlement than at any time since the 'summit' meetings of 1977 and 1979 (Mario Modiano writes).

By agreeing to diminish the land area under their control, the Turkish Cypriots are not far away from the 28 per cent which President Makarios used to say would have satisfied him.

The offer was substantial enough for President Kyprianou to ask for the talks to be suspended. He will be under pressure from the pro-Moscow communist party, Akel, to respond positively to the offer. It may be significant, however, that before leaving for New York, the President asked his ministers to place their resignations at his disposal, amid rumours that he intends to denounce his deal with the communists, which makes Akel virtually a partner in policy-making.



Florida princess: The British cruise liner Royal Princess arriving in the port of Miami on Thursday en route to Los Angeles, its base for cruises to Hong Kong

Malta accuses Britain over harbour wrecks

From Our Correspondent, Valletta

Malta's Ministry of Foreign Affairs has accused Britain of wanting "to take the Maltese people for a ride". A statement referred to unexploded bombs and wrecks in Malta's harbour which has become a contentious issue between the countries. In a note from Britain published here on Thursday, an offer was made to clear the bombs and wrecks.

But the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said a survey of the seabed was nearly complete, and Malta was looking for ways to solve the problem without British help.

The agreement between Malta's Prime Minister, Mr Dom Mintoff, and the Libyan leader, Colonel Gaddafi, reached during the latter's recent state visit to the island, has been published.

Priest among eight banned from racing

Sydney (Reuters) - A Roman Catholic priest and two leading Australian bookmakers were among eight people banned from racecourses for life yesterday after an official inquiry into a multi-million dollar betting scandal.

The Australian Jockey Club said that its decision followed an investigation into the substitution of a horse which won a Brisbane race in August.

Millions of dollars were wagered on the horse in Australia and overseas forcing its odds down from 33-1 to 7-2. But the authorities declared all bets void. One of the largest investigations in turf history followed the discovery that a much better galloper, Bold Personality, had been substituted for the lowly-rated Pine Cotton.

The club banned four bookmakers and revoked their licences and warned off four other people, including Father Edward O'Dwyer, a non-practising priest and well-known local gambler.

The barred bookmakers include Mr Bill Waterhouse and his son Robbie, whose family has been a dominating force in Australian bookmaking for many years.

In preparation for his visit, Mr Hammer held consultations with US-Soviet relations with Senior Administration officials here this week.

Thatcher vetoes United States of Europe

From Diana Geddes, Avignon

Mrs Margaret Thatcher effectively ruled out last night the possibility of a future United States of Europe, but said that Britain was nevertheless a strong advocate of a more united Europe.

Speaking at a dinner to mark the opening of the third biennial conference of the Franco-British Council in Avignon, she said that several distinguished Europeans had advised her to give a speech on the theme of European union.

"Unhappily, those who advised the subject did not cast much light on its meaning, I think I rather shocked them by replying that I would need to know what is meant by it before I could tell whether I was for it or against it."

Let me say at once: I do not

believe that we shall ever have a United States of Europe in the same way that there is a United States of America. The whole history of Europe is too different.

"I do believe, however, that for nations of the European Community freely to work together and to strengthen their cooperation is just as worthy a purpose. But to submerge their identity and variety would be contrary to the instincts of our peoples and therefore could not bear fruit."

Nevertheless, Britain wanted a more united Europe, and by that meant "greater unity of the Common Market, of community action in world affairs, of purpose and action in tackling unemployment and the other problems of our time, and

greater unity in the development and application of new technology."

"These goals are attainable and I believe it is better to work for the substance than to talk of the shadow. There have been so many reports telling us what to do, so many theoretical models. Another report is no substitute for practical progress."

commented in an apparent side swipe at the Dooge and Faure committees which are currently drawing up reports on the future development of the Community.

Mrs Thatcher criticized the Community for having failed to achieve the goal of a truly free market, as laid down in the original Treaty of Rome. "The Community's founding fathers would be horrified by the

labyrinth of its bureaucratic regulations which entwine us like Gulliver plained down by the little men of Lilliput," she said.

The Community was formed to expand trade, not to protect home markets. It was conceived as an outward looking body, not one obsessed with the minutiae

Mrs Thatcher went on to give two examples of that: "Why cannot we make it as cheap for our citizens to travel by air within their own continent as they can to other continents? Why cannot it be as easy for German businessmen to take out insurance direct at Lloyd's of London as it is for the British motorist to buy German cars?"

The emphasis on breaking

Fruitless trip by FitzGerald

From Peter Nichols, Rome

The overriding impression left by Dr Garret FitzGerald's flying visit here for last minute talks about the Dublin summit is that they left the situation unchanged.

Italian officials pointed out that the main object of his meetings with Signor Bettino Craxi, the Prime Minister, and Signor Giulio Andreotti, the Foreign Minister, was to hear the Italian view at first hand on the obstacles threatening agreement over the Community's enlargement.

He could hardly have come here expecting a shift in the Italian position on wine, which is one of the biggest of these obstacles. "If you ask me," was one authoritative comment, "whether fresh light emerged after these talks, I can only answer no."

Dr FitzGerald would now, nevertheless, have a clearer picture of how the Italian Government felt the summit next week should be conducted.

New money needed to break EEC budget deadlock

From Ian Murray, Brussels

All but about £30m of the EEC's available money next year has been spent, budget ministers of the Community agreed early yesterday. But that is unlikely to be enough to satisfy the European Parliament and to stop the budget being rejected.

Ministers drew up a budget of about £15,600m, which they admitted was probably about £750m less than will be needed to fund farm spending for the whole of next year.

The budget was also about £1,500m less than had been asked for by the parliament, which is due to give a second reading to the figures in a fortnight's time.

The council agreed with rare speed that it could not accept Parliament's case that budget needed to be big enough to pay for everything, including the rebates to Britain and West Germany. All it was prepared to do was to write in what Mr Ian Stewart, the British Minister, called "phantom figures", showing that it was prepared to

find and pay the money in due course.

The Parliament had made great play with the fact that the budget was only enough to pay for the first 10 months of Community spending next year. The Council, however, believed that at worst there would be a three-week shortfall, which is only seven days worse than last year.

The argument is likely to prove irrelevant, since Parliament is determined either to reject the budget or to pass one which exceeds the legal limit in an attempt to increase its power in the Community.

If that happens, money will have to be provided monthly, with member states being asked to provide 12 regular instalments, equivalent to exactly one-twelfth of this year's total budget. That would mean payments would be almost identical to this year, when the budget also reached the legal ceiling.

The only way out of the deadlock will be to find new

money through an agreement to bring Spain and Portugal into the Community. This would constitute the main item of the agenda of next week's European summit in Dublin, and major concessions on wine management will be needed for agreement to be achieved.

Mr Gaston Thorn, the Commission president, said yesterday in Brussels that the time had come to make the necessary concessions and remove the remaining obstructions.

"We are at the threshold," he said. "At a quarter to midnight people now have to accept that the time of the great striptease has arrived. The summit will have to peel away national interests for the sake of the future of the Community."

● HEALTH MOVE: The EEC is set to extend its competence to cover some health matters, a subject included in the Treaty of Rome.

Gibraltar opposition rejects deal

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

Gibraltar's Opposition will not be bound by the Anglo-Spanish declaration on the future of the Rock, according to Mr Joe Bossano, its leader.

His Socialist Labour Party, which has seven members in the House of Assembly to the eight of the party of Sir Joshua Hassan, the Chief Minister, is totally opposed to Britain's promise to negotiate sovereignty with Spain, he said.

He forecast a struggle in the assembly, and said that if his party won control in a by-election "we would disown the agreement."

"An attempt is being made now to sell us this agreement by saying that it is only a public relations exercise so as to get Spain's Foreign Minister off the hook because of EEC entry," Mr Bossano said. "But all that is in conflict with Spanish interpretations and our own analysis."

The agreement, he said, would oblige the 20,000 Gibraltarians to make disproportionate sacrifices because of the threat from some five million job seekers in southern Spain.

Mr Bossano, who is also secretary of the Gibraltar Transport and General Workers' Union, promised to protect the jobs in Gibraltar of Moroccan, who formed one third of union membership.

Games guard

Los Angeles (Reuters) - John Blackwell, aged 38, pleaded not guilty by reason of insanity to charges of following a busload of foreign athletes at the Los Angeles Olympic Games in a car carrying explosives. Police quoted him as saying: "I felt it was my patriotic duty to protect Olympic athletes"

Final link between two Harare parties broken

From Jan Raath, Harare

The last link of conciliation between Zimbabwe's two main political parties has been broken, with the resignation this week from the opposition Zapu party of Mr Cephas Mupfema. He handed in his resignation on Wednesday, thereby relinquishing his position as secretary-general.

On November 12, he and Mr John Nkomo were dismissed for their positions as Cabinet ministers, in the wake of accusations by Mr Robert Mugabe, the Prime Minister, that Zapu was behind political assassinations.

In an interview with *The Times* yesterday, Mr Mupfema said he had tied his political hopes on the easing of tensions between the two bitterly opposed parties. However, events in recent weeks had ruined all chance of that.

He did not plan to join the ruling party and would vote in the coming general election for the individual who he believed would best represent his constituency.

Mr Mupfema, a faithful lieutenant of Mr Nkomo for the last 20 years, was a passionate believer in unity.

When he attends next month's session of the UN Working Group on Forced Disappearance in Geneva, Señor Rojas will present documentary evidence of a further 84 cases, bringing to 920 the total put in the hands of the UN body by the commission.

Establishing full details of a "disappearance" in the military-controlled Ayacucho region of the south-central Andes is now easy matter, Señor Rojas said. Relatives are often too frightened of what might happen to them to press the case, and the security forces invariably deny all knowledge.

Enough cases have been documented, however, for a

Thousands disappear in 'dirty war'

By Colin Harding

As many as 2,000 people have "disappeared" in Peru's guerrilla war zone since the armed forces were sent to combat the Marxist Sendero Luminoso (Shining Path) rebels almost two years ago.

The estimate was given to *The Times* the week by Señor Pablo Rojas, secretary of the Peruvian National Human Rights Commission, an independent, church-backed organization.

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Enough cases have been documented, however, for a

pattern to emerge. The commission has 320 dossiers for which witnesses have been able to provide names, addresses and full details of the circumstances of the disappearance. The UN Working Group has agreed to take up 144 of these.

Four hurt as strike disrupts economy

Four people were wounded and 92 arrested during a one-day general strike which disrupted key sectors of the economy throughout Peru. Thursday's stoppage, in protest against government austerity policies, was almost total in some parts of the country. Labour leaders said 90 per cent of the unionized workforce took part (Reuters reports from Lima).

Reporter expelled by Chile for 'false story'

Santiago (Reuters) - Chile's military government expelled at two hours notice the Santiago correspondent of the United Press International news agency, Mr Anthony Boudie, saying he had sent a false report.

News sent abroad about Chile must be accurate, it stated. On November 28 Boudie had reported the deaths of a UDI in Santiago said his report had not reached subscribers.

British seamen deny smuggling

Boston (Reuters) - Six British seamen pleaded not guilty to charges of smuggling 36.16 tonnes of marijuana into the United States on the cargo ship Ramsland. They were remanded in custody until their trial, expected in January. The accused are: Andreas Mallion, aged 24, his brother Gary Mallion, 19, Kevin Tait, 23, Barry Cogger, 30, Westley Simmonds, 23, and John Harrison, 45.

Jammed bridge traps 113 ships

Ottawa (Reuters) - A jammed bridge has trapped 113 cargo ships in the St Lawrence Seaway, the vital link from the grain-rich prairies to the Atlantic, shortly before it is due to close for winter.

The pile-up started 11 days ago when a vertical lift-bridge near Montreal jammed. The scheduled December 15 winter closing date has been postponed. Shipowners are losing up to \$1m a day.

Sailors caught

Moscow (Reuters) - Soviet police have smashed a racket in which Russian merchant seamen smuggled the metal alloy babbit, used in the manufacture of ballbearings, to the Canary Islands and Morocco, where it was sold for enormous sums, a Moscow paper reported.

Officer punished

San Salvador (AP) - President José Napoleón Duarte has ordered the discharge of an influential army officer, Lieutenant Rodolfo López Sibrian, implicated in the 1981 murders of two Americans and a land reform official.

Peak choice

Peking (AFP) - All peaks in Tibet are to be open to foreign climbers in the next few years after surveys have been completed, an official of the Tibetan mountaineering association said. There are more than 40 peaks of over 23,000 ft.

Budget Benin

Cotonou (AFP) - Benin, one of the poorest countries in West Africa, celebrated its national holiday in stark simplicity. A torchlight procession, a wreath-laying ceremony and a football match made up the austerity package.

Killer shark

Mackay, Australia (Reuters) - A school of 16 sharks attacked a shark mauler when he fell from a catamaran half a mile off the beach near this north Queensland town.

True love

Enna, Sicily (Reuters) - Graziella La Martina, aged 17, married Salvatore La Rocca, aged 25, in the jail where he is awaiting trial next week for murdering her father and grandfather after he had eloped with the girl.

Correction

The Alexandra Column (Letter from London) should have commemorated Tsar Alexander I, not Alexander II, as suggested.

Soviet gloom over US policy

From Richard Owen, Moscow

A Soviet newspaper struck a gloomy note over the prospects for Soviet-American arms talks yesterday, declaring that American policy remained "negative and inconsistent".

But most Soviet officials appear to be moderately optimistic, and Moscow yesterday greeted the successful conclusion of a new round of Soviet-American talks on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.

Echoing largely positive Soviet comment since the forthcoming Geneva meeting between Mr George Shultz and Mr Andrei Gromyko was announced just over a week

ago, *Sovetskaya Rossiya* said the "hopes of the world" rested on the renewed East-West dialogue.

But the paper said several of Washington's policies ran counter to such optimism, including the "comprehensive strategic programme" for the 1980s. This envisaged accelerated deployment of the new systems of strategic offensive weapons, *Sovetskaya Rossiya* said. The American "star wars" programme was a "further obstacle on the road to a Soviet-American agreement. So far there are few signs which give rise to hope", the paper concluded.

However, both Soviet and

American officials, said yesterday that the fourth round of Soviet-American talks on nuclear non-proliferation, which ended here yesterday, had been encouraging.

● WASHINGTON: Mr Armand Hammer, the American industrialist whose dealings with Soviet leaders go back to Lenin's time, is to visit Moscow next week and is expected to hold talks with President Chernenko (Our Correspondent writes).

In preparation for his visit, Mr Hammer held consultations with US-Soviet relations with Senior Administration officials here this week.

1984-12-01

Bonn promises rich their money back as 1985 budget is passed

From Michael Binyon Bonn

After almost four days of sharp debate on the Government's record, Parliament yesterday approved the 1985 budget of DM259,300m (£70,000m) without any indication of what will replace a controversial compulsory loan recently declared illegal by West Germany's Constitutional Court.

The loan was exacted from all high-income groups in 1982 as part of the Government's plan to put the country's finances straight. But three weeks ago the court declared it unconstitutional. An embarrassed Government announced that the money, amounting to DM2,000m, would be repaid as quickly as possible to about a million people.

A Soviet newspaper yesterday condemned proposals to build a war memorial in Bonn, saying it would whitewash Nazi crimes and be an insult to millions of people killed in the Second World War. *Red Star*, the Army daily, said the Bonn government was responsible for the project and had shown it was lacking revanchists and militarists who wanted to glorify Nazi soldiers (Reuters reports from Moscow).

A debate blew up in the coalition on possible alternatives, with some ministers pressing for a supplementary levy and the Free Democrats and the Bavarian Prime Minister, opposing what they called an envy tax.

The Government rejected opposition Social Democratic calls in the budget debate for a new super-tax and said it was not going to raise taxes or do anything to hamper investment. But Herr Gerhard Stoltenberg, the Finance Minister, said the proposed borrowing next year of about DM25,000m was still too high.

He held out little hope of a quick reduction in unemployment, now 2.7 million, but as evidence of government achievements in the economy, pointed to a recent optimistic forecast by five independent professors.

EAST BERLIN: East Germany announced a 6.7 per cent increase in its defence budget yesterday after Moscow's 12 per cent boost for Soviet armed forces earlier this week (Reuters reports).

Lebanese prepared to fire on Israelis

From Robert Flisk Beirut

Aware of the political crisis that could follow the Army's advance southwards down the coastal highway towards the Israeli front line outside Sidon, the Lebanese Government is to order its troops to prevent any Israeli armoured patrols travelling north across the Awaali river, by opening fire if necessary.

Whether such a confrontation will actually take place is unclear, but Lebanese officials fear that the Israelis may try to prove the impotence of the Lebanese Army by sending a convoy of tanks up the main road to Beirut in defiance of the Lebanese Third Brigade.

In their withdrawal talks at Naqura, the Israelis are insisting that their own "South Lebanon Army" militia should take part in security duties in southern Lebanon, on the grounds that the Lebanese Government Army is incapable of controlling the area.

For their part, the Lebanese suspect that the Israelis may try to prove their thesis by disrupting the second stage of the Government's security plan - the Lebanese Army's move 20 miles south of Beirut - and thus provoking a split in the Lebanese Cabinet.

Any suggestion that Lebanese troops might give way to the Israelis when Lebanese guerrillas are fighting the Israeli occupation army further south would prompt angry denunciations from the two principal Muslim leaders - Nabih Berri and Walid Jumblatt - within the government.

One thousand two hundred soldiers backed up by 500 reservists are to be sent south of Beirut within the next eight days.

In December, government troops are supposed to open up the mountain road to Damascus



Mr Schroeder savouring his beer as he holds up a message from a well-wisher.

Heart man downs a beer

Looksville, Kentucky (NYT) - Mr William Schroeder got out of bed and sat in a chair for the first time since he became the second recipient of a permanent artificial heart. He also drank three-quarters of the can of beer he had craved.

"I feel great today," he told Mr William Strode, the official photographer who is following the events at Humana hospital.

Mr Schroeder, aged 52, appeared to be making a far speedier recovery than Barney Clark, the first recipient of an

artificial heart, who was unable to take steps until 20 days after the operation in December 1982 and then only with help. Mr Schroeder was able to support his own weight on Thursday, the fourth day after the implant operation.

His apparent vigour contrasted vividly with his condition before the operation, as described by his wife, Margaret, at a news conference.

"Once we went down towards that operating room, I was relieved, because I felt that my

husband was fading away from me, and now I feel I have him back again and that I have another chance."

After the operation, she put her hand on her husband's chest to feel the heartbeat.

"It's different, but at least it's beating and I can feel it." Before he entered the hospital, Mrs Schroeder said, she was unable to hear his heart. "It was very weak before and now it's a thump, thump sort of feeling."

Kim makes secret visit to Peking

From Mary Lee Peking

China announced yesterday that President Kim Il Sung of North Korea paid an unofficial two-day visit to Peking earlier this week and discussed, among other things, the situation in the Korean peninsula with Chinese leaders. "There was complete agreement on all questions discussed," said Mr Wu Xiang, spokesman for the Chinese Communist Party Central Committee's international liaison department.

Mr Kim, accompanied by two senior members of his Politburo, held "cordial talks in a comradely and friendly atmosphere" with Mr Deng Xiaoping, the Chinese leader. Mr Hu Yaobang, the party general secretary, and other Chinese Politburo members. Mr Wu said both sides "expressed a common desire to further alleviate tension in the Korean peninsula". He was asked about the November 23 shooting in the Demilitarized Zone and China's view of the dialogue which has begun between North and South Korea.

Diplomats say it is significant that Mr Kim's unannounced visit took place only three days after the shooting incident, in which soldiers from both sides were killed.

SEOUL: Mr Vasily Maruzok, the Soviet citizen who sparked the clash in the Demilitarized Zone when he defected to South Korea through the truce village of Panmunjom, has left here for Rome "according to his wishes", the South Korean Foreign Ministry announced (AP reports).

South Korea lifted a ban on political activity affecting 84 politicians yesterday, but the leading dissident, Mr Kim Dae Jung, who lives in exile in the United States, remained on the black list (Reuters reports).

Tough poll test for ruling party in Belize

From a Correspondent Belize City

After more than 20 years in power, Mr George Price and his government face a tough challenge, in the first Belizean general election since the former colony of British Honduras gained independence in 1981.

In choosing December 14 for the elections, only 24 days after dissolution of the National Assembly, Mr Price, the Prime Minister and leader of the People's United Party, has tried to catch the Opposition off-guard and to perhaps capitalize on the pre-Christmas spirit.

While the PUP will in all likelihood hang on to power, many observers believe it may end up with only a narrow majority, perhaps 16 seats out of the 28 in the enlarged House of Representatives.

Such a result would create unprecedented conditions for a coalition between disgruntled members of the PUP and the Opposition, the United Democratic Party.

The Opposition only held three seats out of 18 in the old House, but is confident of making significant gains this time. The PUP won a decisive

René denies Seychelles is a Soviet base

From Charles Harrison, Victoria, Seychelles

President Albert René of the Seychelles yesterday denied suggestions that his island was being used as a Soviet military base, said no country - including the Soviet Union - had asked for such facilities here.

He said however, that Soviet-made missiles have been used as part of the Seychelles own defence system, and that 40 North Koreans are training the island's army.

The Seychelles, he said, maintains good relations with both the West and the East. "We are a small country trying not to fall into any of the superpower camps."

President René called an international press conference

Botha loses ground to far right

From Michael Hornsby Johannesburg

The South African Government has won all three of Thursday's parliamentary by-elections, but in all three contests it lost ground to extreme right-wing parties opposed to the new constitution and the extension of the franchise to the Indian and mixed-blood Coloured minorities.

In Primrose, a lower-income suburb of Johannesburg, the ruling National Party's (NP) majority was heavily cut by the Conservative Party (CP) of Dr Andries Treurnicht, who led a breakaway group of government MPs in 1982.

In the Cape constituency of George, which was vacated by Mr P. W. Botha, the former Prime Minister, when he became state President under the new constitution last September, the CP also shaved down the NP majority.

In Parow, another Cape seat, the Herstigte Nasionale Party (HNP), an earlier and even more extreme offshoot of the NP, whose candidate stood with the backing of the CP, also reduced the Government's majority.

Mr Treurnicht claimed that the results had confirmed the steady growth of support for his party and shown that it now had a solid popular base in both urban and rural areas. Virtually every seat in the Transvaal, he maintained, was now within the CP's grasp.

In fact, while the by-elections certainly show that the combined CP and HNP vote remains a force to be reckoned with, especially in the Transvaal, they suggest that the right-wing tide has reached a higher-water mark, and if anything may now be receding.

Although the right-wing vote has strengthened since the last general elections in 1981, it appears to be weaker than it was immediately after the CP's breakaway in early 1982.

The only possible threat to the Government's position, therefore, is a further defection of Government MPs to the CP, and Dr Treurnicht will need to show much convincing evidence of a gathering groundswell of white opinion in his favour if he is to stimulate that.

Carrillo uses Nato to mount party challenge

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

Spain's veteran Communist, Señor Santiago Carrillo, and the party's present leadership have exchanged public insults over what should have been an interview with Señor Felipe Gonzalez, the Prime Minister, about Nato membership.

Spanish Communists regard withdrawal from Nato as a crucial issue. But the clash was about who should run the party - Señor Gerardo Iglesias, the Secretary-General, or Señor Carrillo who once held that post, but is now only the party's spokesman in Parliament.

Señor Carrillo, who will be 70 next month, was obliged after the 1982 election when the

communists won four seats, to step down, but he has since been fighting to regain power with all the bitterness of encroaching old age.

Señor Iglesias saw the Prime Minister on Thursday night, arguing that because the communist battle against Nato is being fought not only in Parliament but also in the streets, he should represent it.

Since announcing last month that Spain does not need to leave Nato, Señor Gonzalez has been consulting all political parties through their parliamentary leaders to obtain a consensus before holding a referendum.

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SPORTING DIARY

Simon Barnes

Becher's powder

Top national hunt jockeys are riding higher in the saddle. A new herbal diet from Canada keeps their weight down, and makes them feel wonderful at the same time. "It puts you right on top of the world," enthuses Charlie Mann, who once jumped Becher's Brook with no hands after accidentally losing his reins and now acts as distributor for the wonder herbs. His clients include leading riders Peter Scudamore and John Francome.

Keeping up

Robert Walters set off yesterday to become world champion of the great playground sport of Keepy-Uppy, the art of juggling a football without letting it touch the ground or your hand. For all I know, he is still at it. The record is 12 hours, 15 minutes.

Postage stamp

The island of Nukulaele, Tarvalu has produced four cricketing stamps to delight philatelists and engage cricketing Yorkshiremen. Godfrey Evans for a dollar is fair enough but Nukulaele goes on to offer David Bairstow at 30 cents, Geoffrey Boycott at 15 and Brian Close, a snip at 5 cents.

Shot line

BT is imploring the shooting community to stop shooting telephone lines. In the Edinburgh area alone, shotgun damage has been estimated at £2,000 a year. Michael Miller, a Telecom engineer, reckons half the repairs he makes around Taunton and Yeovil are caused by gunshot. It takes only a slight graze from a stray pellet to wreck havoc with the complicated spaghetti of wires inside a telephone cable, and a repair involves the replacement of countless yards of the stuff. Organised shoots are the worst offenders.

Own goal

Last July, a thief serving two years for armed robbery escaped from prison in North Rhine Westphalia. This season, playing a game of amateur football, he was recognised by a spectating policeman. His sudden burst of speed impressed colleagues, but it was not enough, and the fellow was eventually caught.

Noble pair

Mary Peters and Barry McGuigan could be nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize. The idea of honouring the Northern Irish pair comes from Tom Pendry, chairman of the Labour Party Sports Group. "They have done more to bring young people together than all the politicians," he says.

Back-handed

Tennis player Andrea Jaeger, a Wimbledon finalist at 18, is studying natural science in Florida. A right hand injury which has kept her off the court, prevents her from writing. She is said to be submitting essays scrawled in a devastatingly shaky left hand.

Fever pitch

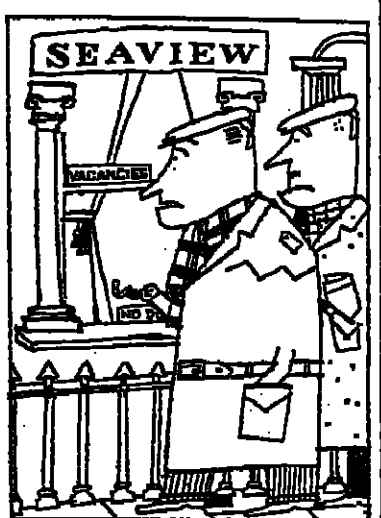
A recent "friendly" fixture between two French football clubs was finally brought under control by a blast of tears. One player and one spectator went to hospital. The match between Barbazan and Portugais was abandoned after a brawl involving players, officials and about 50 spectators. It started after the referee sent two players off in an attempt to calm things down.

● Quote of the Week: snooker player Tony Meo, on his defeat by Steve Davis: "I've been beaten by a supernatural person."

Ripley yarns

Rugby's Andy Ripley has a book coming out in the spring. The title has been the subject of an animated exchange. He wanted to call it *Andy Ripley's Rubbish*, making use of the Empsonian ambiguity of the apostrophe S, which can be read as a verb or as a possessive. His publishers counter-proposed *Ruck off Ripley*. Ripley turned this down, on grounds of excessive subtlety. He then suggested a combination of two elements of traditional bestselling genre, and offered *Adolf Hitler's Book of Cats*. The compromise will (probably) be *Ripley's Rugby Rubbish*. No fears about his loss of amateur status though: Ripley says the book isn't worth going pro for. Royalties to charity.

BARRY FANTONI



"The wife and I used to stay there regularly when I was unemployed"

No excuse now for direct rule

by Enoch Powell

The purpose for which direct rule was imposed on Northern Ireland in 1972 and renewed thereafter, year by year down to the present, was to hold the ring while operations were in progress to take Ulster out of the United Kingdom into some form of all-Ireland state. An end to those operations has now been solemnly declared, with the full authority of the Prime Minister and Her Majesty's Government, by the statements made at and after the Chequers conference.

Henceforward direct rule serves no purpose, open or clandestine. Any reason which previously existed for subjecting this province to a regime that sets it apart from the rest of our country and deprives us of democratic rights which our fellow citizens all possess has disappeared.

There is no reason why those environmental functions which local councils exercise elsewhere should not be transferred forthwith to the district councils in Ulster, to be exercised by them severally or jointly. No disturbance need result for the civil servants who efficiently and industriously administer those services. As in Great Britain, legislative principles would be laid down by Parliament. Moreover the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, in his supervisory capacity, would have powers to act in default should any council be manifestly falling down on its statutory duties or behaving unconscionably towards any section of the local community. Parliament would gain in efficiency by legislating for Ulster at the same time as for

Great Britain, and the representatives of this province would take their fair share in the formative stages of the legislative process, instead of having to sit by with folded hands waiting for a carbon copy, unamendable, to be imposed on Ulster.

Now that "reunification exercise", as a minister once incautiously called it in my hearing, has been terminated the Northern Ireland Office can become just like any other department of state, leading the administration of which it is an integral part and staffed by civil servants whose career opportunities elsewhere in the UK bring wider and more varied experience to bear upon the government of their native province. The end of direct rule means the end of Stormont Castle and the start of a new-style Northern Ireland Office.

The most damaging aspect of direct rule is the most difficult to eradicate. It is the "alienation" - that word is irresistibly fashionable - of the people and electorate of Ulster from the political process of the United Kingdom.

Party politics of the UK are the political process of our own nation, the nation to which we proudly belong. In the longer term we cannot accept the banishment from that process that was entailed upon us by direct rule and by our perception, through all the years since 1972 that the British political parties - the Conservative Party of Heath no less than the Labour Party of Wilson - really

wanted to get rid of us and were working towards that by whatever means they could.

If Ulster's constitutional status is now to be put as beyond all cavil and debate - and that, I take it, is what the Chequers event was intended to bring about - the people of Ulster must have the same opportunity as their fellow citizens to debate, and to decide, the great national issues which give meaning and purpose to the mainland political parties. When that is accomplished the long agony of Ulster will lie behind us and its people, all of them, will at last have entered into secure possession of their inheritance.

I will not remain at the level of generalities. The process has to begin somewhere some time. For all its claims to represent the principles of democracy, I see no prospect that the Labour Party will make the start. If it is to be the Conservative Party that ends direct rule by breaking off the long intrigue of which direct rule was the instrument, then it is through the Conservative Party that those Ulster electors who would be supporters and members of the Conservative Party in Great Britain must find a way to participate in the politics of their country, a country no longer a step-mother but a true mother to this province of Ulster.

The author is Official Unionist MP for Down South. This is extracted from a speech delivered last night to the Warrenpoint branch of the South Down Unionist Association.

John Crossland on the reconstruction of a famous sea battle

Mary Evans Picture Library

The explosion was heard 15 miles away in Alexandria. To John Nicol, serving a gun in the foetid darkness of the lower deck, it seemed that the whole after-part of his ship, the *Goliath*, had blown up. It "got such a shake". Sir Edward Berry, Nelson's flag-captain, spoke later of "an awful pause and death-like silence" for about three minutes.

L'Orient - with three continuous gun decks and 120 guns in broadside one of the largest first-rate battleships of her day - blew up at the height of the Battle of the Nile.

By 9.30 in the evening the great ship was blazing like some Viking's funeral pyre. The French Admiral Bruyès was lying dead in his cabin and only the captain, Casabianca, continued to stamp the quarter deck in defiance, refusing to haul down the tricolour. His 10-year-old son, subject of the most famous lines about the battle, "the boy stood on the burning deck", was apparently clinging to the rigging, itself now a flaming ladder to the night sky.

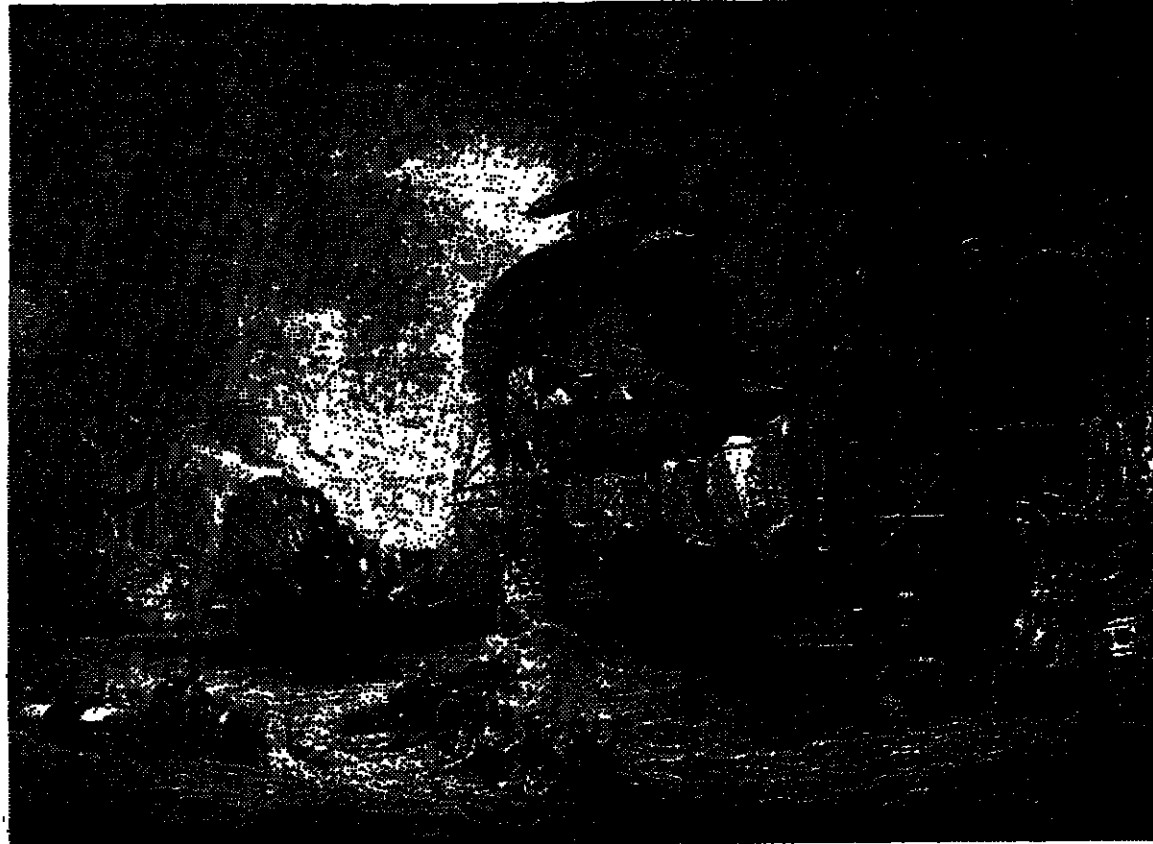
At 10pm the end came in a firestorm which briefly threw both fleets into clear relief and showed the French how they had been completely outmanoeuvred by Nelson. The inky shoal waters then swallowed *L'Orient*. They sealed a repository of secrets which, 186 years later, a French archaeological team is now seeking to answer.

Just back from the Nile team leader M Jacques Dumas, a marine lawyer and diver of 40 years' experience, gave *The Times* a progress report on the first full season of diving.

Last season, in a reconnaissance dive backed by the French and Egyptian governments, Dumas found the skeleton of a man o' war. But which? Four French ships sank in the battle - nine others were taken as prizes and two escaped - and their exact location had never been established. Working in the disturbed silt and sand of the Nile's mouth, sometimes with a heavy sea running and unable to see more than six feet in front of their faces, the team found the task of identification daunting.

Perhaps it had been auspicious to invite the 70-year-old Prince Louis Napoleon, head of the Bonaparte family, to participate in a dive this summer. They soon found the huge rudder of the vessel, 12 metres high and weighing 12 tons, and served into one of the bronze gudgeons or pintles was the name *Le Dauphin Royal*, the name by which *L'Orient* was known before the French Revolution.

Working in a straight line towards the huge bow anchor found last year, Dumas and his team were able to get an idea of *L'Orient*'s size. Her construction plans vanished in the Revolution and how she was damaged by the explosion. The fact that rows of 36-pounder cannon, normally breached with an intervening space of about 16 metres, were



Secrets of the burning deck revealed

found 50 or 60 metres apart indicated that she had been opened into two halves. Great stretches of what had been "the burning deck" emerged from the sand, still together with blocks for the rigging, still in working condition.

"To identify this great ship was a coup in itself", M Dumas told me from the elegant Paris office occupied by SOFRA (Société Française d'Archéologie Sous-marine). "But one of our aims is to reconstruct the battle, as far as possible, from archaeological sources, and having pinpointed *L'Orient* we can now establish the exact positions of the other French ships."

Also, for the first time, it converts the rough sketch map of Aboukir Bay and the two fleets, drawn by one of Nelson's officers, into the reality of a battleground, and shows the measure of Bruyès' fatal complacency. He was anchored with a fortified island protecting the head of his line, and shoals and frigates the flanks. However, says Dumas, "We found there were as

much as 3,000 metres between the French fleet and Aboukir Island. Even with the reefs at the entrance to the bay that was too much."

Nelson exploited the gap and destroyed the launchpad from which Bonaparte planned to cut Britain's vital link with its Indian possessions. Dumas has found one of the printing presses sunk with the ship, complete with Arabic type, from which the French poured out propaganda leaflets inciting the Egyptians to rise as allies of the Revolution. The type fonts originated in the Vatican, the only European source of Arabic type. Dumas has turned up correspondence between Napoleon and a mathematician named Monges directing the commandeering of these presses for the expedition.

Personal trinkets found in the area of the officers' quarters have started a train of romantic speculation. It is known there was a woman on *L'Orient*, Pauline Foy, who was smuggled aboard disguised as an artilleryman by her officer husband. She was not present at the

Battle of the Nile: from an engraving by Charles Lawrie

battle and later became the mistress of Citizen General Bonaparte.

Rummaging in the silt, Dumas found a decorated gold thimble. Did Pauline leave it behind or was there another woman on board? Nearby was a gold chain with the initial "B". Could it have belonged to the admiral? A check was made into the archives at Uzès, his home town, but it was inconclusive.

Muskets, sabres and dozens of metal buttons and cap badges appeared regularly, the latter bearing regimental numbers, thus helping to fill in the record of Napoleon's army. *L'Orient*'s position gave Dumas a bearing on the frigate *L'Arctique*, which had been set on fire by her captain rather than surrender. Here they found the ship's compass, to match the bronze set square discovered in *L'Orient*.

Roughly five metres of the ship's interworkings have been found to be intact, giving Dumas high hopes of uncovering a "French Mary Rose".

The French death toll at the Nile was 1,700. As John Nichol noted: "The whole bay was covered with dead bodies, mangled, wounded and scorched, not a bit of clothes on them, except their trousers." Dumas has found the remains of many of them and, when the excavation is complete, intends to lower some suitable memorial to the seabed. He also intends to reconstruct the remains of *L'Orient*'s stern, either in France or Egypt, as a permanent memorial.

Forest hopes may lie with the Greens

Hainburg, Lower Austria. Lying some 25 miles east of Vienna, the Medieval town of Hainburg has long attracted the conservationist's interest. Its picturesque thirteenth-century walls guard the spot where King Přemysl of Bohemia married Margaret of Austria. According to sagas, Artila the Hun waited here for Kriemhild while a mile further west are the subterranean waters of Bad Deutsch-Altenburg, which have attracted visitors from the time of the Romans.

Less than 200 yards from Hainburg stretches Central Europe's last surviving wetland forest, 800,000 square metres of nature reserve which arouses the enthusiasm of nature lovers throughout the world.

Last Monday, after almost a year of acrimonious debate, the Lower Austrian government decided to press ahead with plans to construct a hydro-electric power station 600 yards to the north of Hainburg, on the Danube. The decision, based on a belief that the wetland forest's unique ecological system could survive drastic construction and a radical deepening of the Danube riverbed, has been hailed as Central Europe's environmental catastrophe of the century.

The World Wildlife Fund, together with distinguished Nobel prizewinner Professor Konrad Lorenz, have argued for months that

the construction of the power station would have disastrous ecological effects. In February this year the Duke of Edinburgh spoke in Vienna as president of the visit, warning the Austrian government that if it approved the decision of the regional government it would irrevocably damage its standing in the conservation world.

The Duke's statements drew fire from socialist politicians in Austria, who accused him of unwarranted interference in their internal affairs. At the same time, however, over 100,000 signatures were gathered supporting the fund's stand on the issue. Even the Czechoslovakian government, not known for harbouring "green" sentiments, denounced the scheme, insisting that in addition to the environmental effects in Austria the nearby Slovak town of Bratislava would run the risk of floods while the station was constructed.

To counter this unusual but formidable alliance of communists, royalty and eminent scientific opinion, the Austrian government mobilized 50,000 trade unionists to demonstrate in favour of the power station. Their march through Vienna reminded those who opposed the project that they were taking on one of the most powerful industries in the country, and one which had the government's almost undivided support.

Last Monday's decision, abruptly announced by the environment spokesman for Lower Austria, Dr Ernest Brezovsky, brought home even more dramatically the odds against the conservation lobby. Dr Brezovsky, refusing to publish any of the evidence he had heard, merely stated that the majority of statements from environmental experts had argued in favour of the project.

The World Wildlife Fund insists that no expert of any repute would dare to approve of the Hainburg plan. The fund is determined to take the Lower Austrian government to court and has accused it of falsifying the evidence. According to Herr Hans Wagner, the fund's spokesman, the decision was a "gross abuse of democracy".

For Austria's leaders the decision has highlighted, for the second time in recent years, the enormous passions energy policy can arouse. In 1978, after spending over £60m on the construction of a nuclear power station at Zwentendorf on the Danube, a referendum voted against activating it.

For six years Zwentendorf has remained a museum costing Austria £650m to preserve. Were Zwentendorf demolished the obvious cushion for the blow to Austria's fossilized energy industry would be the go-ahead for Hainburg.

Although most politicians agree

that with Austria exporting at least 10 per cent of her hydro-electric energy there is at present no drastic need for a new power station. But those in favour of Hainburg argue that there is no guarantee that this will always be the case. Combined with trade union pressure and a widespread belief that the government must show some decisiveness, this argument has finally forced its hand.

But as the World Wildlife Fund prepares its legal case, and as thousands of signatures pour into the parliament protesting at the decision, Vienna may yet decide to hold some kind of referendum on the issue. The unprecedented victory two months ago of the Greens in Vorarlberg in Western Austria, which gave them four seats in the provincial government, has been a warning to Vienna that there is more than enough feeling in Austria for a protest vote.

While the government is under-tenured by the opposition it would receive in the conservationist world, it will think twice before focusing disenchanted with the two major political parties on so emotive an issue. The hope that this may ultimately prevent the project from going ahead is the only optimism the conservationists may now feel.

Richard Bassett

Woodrow Wyatt

Arthur Scargill's exhausted seam

The National Coal Board employs some 222,000 men. This week more than 100,000 were not on strike. The National Union of Mineworkers' membership among NCB employees is 189,000 of which over 68,000 were not on strike this week. Why are 121,000 NUM members still not at work?

Intimidation must account for a large number. In tight communities where the majority are not working, the risk of physical attack, house burning and so on is acute. Apart from the intimidated there are two categories, which tend to merge into each other: those who believe in blind loyalty to the union right or wrong; and those who are convinced that Mr Scargill is right when he says the strike can be won.

Scargill has one incontrovertible argument on his side. Last March, the NCB did propose a reduction of 4 million tonnes of high-cost coal production with a commensurate loss of jobs - 20,000 (the previous year) in accordance with its aim of cutting out the worst loss-making pits and concentrating on cheaper coal production.

He asserts that miners do not have the right to accept large voluntary redundancy payments because that would be to take away the jobs of their descendants. In older mining communities based on nearby pits this argument has some appeal, though the NCB would have no difficulty achieving the voluntary redundancies it is looking for.

To keep up the morale of that section of his members voluntarily on strike, Scargill has to convince them that they can win, and the NCB be forced to abandon pit closures and job cuts. From the outset, he has made florid claims to this effect. In May he said power stations and only eight weeks' supply of coal. The hoped-for power cuts should therefore have come in July. He has frequently repeated predictions of power cuts which have never come and apparently his most fervent followers are not yet disenchanted.

Last Monday Mr Peter Walker, Secretary of State for Energy, said that there were stocks of 37 million tonnes of coal, a reduction of only around 76 million tonnes since the strike began in March. The Central Electricity Generating Board has not even begun to import foreign coal, readily available at Rotterdam for £35 a tonne, plus £5 delivery to Britain (against the average cost of £46 a tonne for undelivered home-produced coal). Between August and September the stocks at power stations actually rose from 15.27 million to 15.6 million tonnes.

There are some 22 million tonnes at collieries and open-cast sites. The magic of Scargill presumably convinced his followers that these could not be moved, but despite a few railmen being awkward there has not been any problem in getting coal moved by road. The much wanted help the NUM was to get from the TUC and other unions has not materialised and is increasingly less likely to do so: something which must be obvious to his members.

It is not a question of power cuts being forced in the winter, early next year or next summer. The strike could continue indefinitely without any power cuts. The 63 pits producing coal are contributing

nearly 600,000 tonnes a week. Alternative fuel and coal imports could easily top up the gaps if the coal stocks are run down.

Though he does not say so, Scargill probably realises this. To buoy up the hopes of his followers he uses an additional argument that the cost to the nation of the strike is so intolerable that the Government and NCB will have to give in. In his autumn statement, Mr Nigel Lawson put the extra cost of the strike so far on the public sector borrowing requirement at £1,500m. This is by no means unbearable and has not deterred Lawson from promising tax cuts in the next budget. Nor is it easy to assess the true cost of the strike: coal stocks being used have already been paid for and the wages of the miners not at work are being saved. The strike could last for 10 years and the country would still be nowhere near having to give in.

So Scargill is resorting to proclaiming doom for some pits unless all miners join the strike. At Berham in North Wales on November 8 a narrow majority of striking miners working voted for the strike to continue. Today nearly all the Berham miners are at work with Scargill declaring that the NCB intends to close the pit. However, the NCB has said officially that the pit can become profitable and denies any intention to close it.

Scargill recently claimed that half of the nine North Derbyshire pits face imminent closure on economic grounds. Mr Ken Moses, the NCB area director, has challenged him to name these pits and debate the issue publicly as the NCB has no plans to close any. Scargill has backed away; he cannot risk being discredited.

He claims the NCB figures of more than 68,000 not on strike are wrong and this week maintained that only 51,725 were non-strikers. The NCB makes the reasonable reply that its auditors would not allow it to get away with paying 68,000-plus for work they are not doing.

Similarly, Scargill asserts that many who went back to work have rejoined the strike. The real figures are that 22 rejoined the strike in the week ending Friday, November 9 and 98 rejoined it in the week ending Friday, November 16.

The drift back to work has slowed down for the time being but Scargill will be hard driven to go on persuading even his more rabid followers that it is not happening. He is undoubtedly a considerable orator and propagandist. It will be interesting to see how long his claim that the strike will succeed will be believed by enough NUM members to maintain it in any significant form. As the record of inaccurate predictions and statements lengthens, the willingness of the genuine, as opposed to intimidated, strikers to believe that the strike can be won must diminish.

The NCB was foolish to prophesy that more than half the NUM employees would be back at work by Christmas, but already over one-third of them are. The erosion of the strike, however slow, is now inevitable and Scargill's rhodomontade will not be enough to hold back more than his most fanatical supporters from becoming non-strikers. Neither the NCB nor the Government need do anything other than wait patiently.

Joseph Connolly

Promise, I won't write a word

The knack of never being without a cab in London is to flag down several at a time, ascertain where the blazes the noxious drivers wish to go, and endeavour to wrap one's entire day around the least ridiculous destination. Hendon is a good place to want to go, as taxi drivers are always on their way home and one of them live in Hendon, as everyone knows.

The other filthy evening, however, I could not apply the system as I had to be at *The Times*. The first two cabs to stop didn't want to be seen within spitting distance of the place, the third said there was too much traffic due to the rain, the fourth was taking himself off to hospital (with orange light glow) on account of me, he was having trouble with, if you will believe it, his tubes, and I didn't mind, did I? I told him I didn't mind if he drove off the edge of the world into hell.

It was the driver who did eventually take me on who really gave me trouble and I was very rude indeed to him, but not before he had been even ruder about Bernard Levin. Now this, clearly, was a sign of madness, and should have alerted me to the truth. "I had him in the back of the cab once", he said. "I hate millionaires."

My sympathies were with Levin. How he must have sat appalled in that awful taxi, I thought, decked out as it was like the worst sort of living room with a sticky little lot of Axminster smelling of Fairy Liquid and that damnable stinker saying "Thank You For Not Smoking". I lit my pipe and glowered at the back of the man's neck.

"Bloody Bernard Levin", he went on. "I hate his records. Sitting there in the back with his bloody long hair." Odd, I thought. Briefly I dammed Margaret Thatcher and Arthur Scargill to perdition (I gathered he was equally down on the over-mining of the police) and shrieking fury at an already terrified cyclist, he

then turned around to talk to me, saw the pipe, and lost his mind. He stood on the brakes. "Right, that's it! Out! You bloody pop stars. If you were a woman, I'd kill you. I've already thanked you for not smoking. Out!"

We were at the wrong end of the Gray's Inn Road and the rain-hung outside like a hospital blanket. "Look", I tried, "just take me to *The Times*, and then you can scurry back to your asylum." As soon as it was out, I judged the mot was wise, and became convinced of this when he got out of the cab and made for me. I thought I would follow his example and leapt like a rabbit.

Picture us, then, on either side of the taxi pounded by London rain, when suddenly - to make matters worse - the man began to cry. I toyed with compassion and settled for flight. "Please come back in!" he wailed as I splattered away, "I'm all right now. It comes and goes!"

Well by this time I was going like the blazes, but didn't he just get back into the cab and start following me. I was scrambling along the Gray's Inn Road telling myself to remain calm, while becoming more sodden than ever in my life, being tailed by a taxi at five miles an hour, with a braying driver beseeching me to get back into it. I tried to pretend it was nothing to do with me and thought the worst thing I could do was break into a canter because then I could fall over and he'd run me down, for sure.

Then I got back into the cab: I was so terribly wet and situation was becoming too silly for words. As soon as I slammed the door, however, he eyed me and snarled. "I really hate people like you." This was now becoming decidedly weird. He drove me to *The Times*, supposed I was a journalist and not a pop star and that I would write all about him. He hated journalists (falling into the category of humanity, as they do). I assured him that even if he was the very last subject under the sun, I should not dream of writing a single word.

Wyatt
cargill's
d seam



P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

AFTER DOWNING STREET

Laden with honour, bolstered by a princely pension, warmed by a misty respect in the shortening memory of the political nation, former prime ministers (those who have also left party office) retire into university chancellorships, the writing of their version of events, and the occasional statesmanlike oration about the grand issues of the day as seen from a great height. That is what the idealized version of the British political system prescribes; and it is to a large extent what actually happens.

But it cannot be absolutely depended upon to happen. Like spent roman candles round a bonfire which may yet contain within what remains of them one or more belated coloured bursts, former prime ministers may at any time go off in the face of the unwary, even if muffled in ermine and even at ninety. When as now there are as many as five of them on the ground, they want watching.

Their propensity for mischief is related to the manner of their exit. Three of the five left shortly after the defeat of their party in a general election, Lord Home of the Hirsal and Mr Callaghan more or less voluntarily, Mr Heath anything but, Lord Stockton, as Harold Macmillan, left in a conjunction of personal illness and party sleaziness. The facts underlying the resignation of Lord Wilson of Rievaulx remain an enigma to this day.

Lord Home has conformed at

every point to the idealized portrait of the retired statesman. Mr Callaghan, apart from his intervention in last year's general election, has been a disinterested observer over the corpse, or ghost, of Sir Robert Peel. Mr Leon Brittan, who started it, would have Peel a monetarist. Mr Heath has him an infrastructure man, someone who could tell the difference between borrowing on capital and current account, between "the kitchen sink economics of the housewife [any particular housewife?] and the business economics of the entrepreneur". Vex not his ghost. Peel was no stranger to controversy, but he did nothing to deserve being dragged into this one. Besides Mr Heath has no need of him or any other code name. He fulminates in clear.

Alone among the five Mr Heath broods upon his destiny as *rex quondam et futurus*, a once and future king. He has never been reconciled to his overthrow by Mrs Thatcher. He ponders the means of turning his party round. His detractors ascribe it to pique. It is compatible also with political conviction - conviction politics being not all of one variety. Nothing is certain unless it is this: that if his party ever does turn back to his policies, it will not turn back to him. The charge of disloyalty, framed within a jurisdiction he does not acknowledge, falls between him and that ambition.

Mr Heath is in a different league. He was in Tamworth last night for the hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the Manifesto. An unseemly struggle has broken out over the corpse, or ghost, of Sir Robert Peel. Mr Leon Brittan, who started it, would have Peel a monetarist. Mr Heath has him an infrastructure man, someone who could tell the difference between borrowing on capital and current account, between "the kitchen sink economics of the housewife [any particular housewife?] and the business economics of the entrepreneur". Vex not his ghost. Peel was no stranger to controversy, but he did nothing to deserve being dragged into this one. Besides Mr Heath has no need of him or any other code name. He fulminates in clear.

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MR HAWKE AGAIN

Australians go to vote today, intent it seems upon re-electing Mr Bob Hawke's Labour government for a further three years in office. (The country's leading opinion polls will be scratching around for painful employment if they do not.) But the return ticket is unlikely to guarantee ministers the easy ride they have had so far.

The occasionally lachrymose Mr Hawke would seem to have little to cry about. Since March last year when he led Labour back to power he has enjoyed quite a blissful honeymoon, as political honeymoons go. Inflation has been halved to around 5 per cent, the stock market is buoyant, profits are up, unemployment is down - and so is the number of strikes. After one of the most damaging droughts in Australian history, he even made it rain - by no means the only achievement aided by that unfair share of luck, without which no politician can long survive.

He can also, however, claim credit for building a solid platform of public confidence on which the Australian economy has been able to expand. Industrial peace particularly has been ensured by Mr Hawke's prices and incomes agreement with the unions - which was an important component of his victorious campaign in March 1983.

Hawke the radical has become Hawke the respectable, display-

ing a Wilsonian pragmatism which has dispelled the lingering fears of left-wing revolution in that deeply conservative country. In that sense he has done for the Australian Labour Party what Clement Attlee did for the Labour Party here, by showing a capacity for sound and responsible government - although parallels must stop there.

Indeed he has all too obviously nonplussed his official Opposition by stealing the middle ground. This has left it with little option but to move to the right or to concentrate on certain specific issues - which is largely what it has done. Mr Andrew Peacock's case was not helped moreover by his decision to call the Prime Minister a "little crook" - an insult which, in the manner of a boomerang in the outback, came back to hit the sender smack between the eyes.

Mr Peacock's personal standing in the opinion polls has been helped by a last minute surge. This was partly due to his apparent success in last week-end's live television debate between the two men - although Liberal-National parties have been famous for making late runs. But Mr Peacock's sudden improvement seems more likely to save him from ignominious defeat within his own party after the election than to make him prime minister.

This would not however be an inconsiderable factor because in

three years' time he could still have the last laugh. Mr Hawke's chances of doubling his 25-seat majority in the House of Representatives look good, but his prospects of winning any kind of control over the Senate are threatened by the emergence of the Nuclear Disarmament Party (NDP) - whose members are unhappy over Mr Hawke's robust attitude on nuclear issues. Not only is the NDP threatening to thwart the Government's hopes in Canberra's upper house, but it could help to coalesce left-wing discontent over Hawke's centrist position during the next three years.

There are also misgivings about the continuing growth of the Australian economy in what could be a leaner period ahead, and over the future for Labour's pact with the unions. A decline in economic performance could certainly lead to union disenchantment and to demands for more money than industry is able to afford. Could Australians have a winter of discontent even?

On the other hand again, there are signs on the horizon. For the time being Mr Hawke looks secure and deserves a second mandate. Australians wanted strong, sensible consensus government, and responding to their mood, by and large he has given it to them. The question is how long he can continue to do so without running into trouble with his own.

FROM COLD WAR TO COLD PEACE

Yesterday Mrs Thatcher and President Mitterand found themselves in close agreement on how to pursue their relations with Moscow. The prospects for a concerted western policy are improving, and there seems more hope of progress than for many months. Yet that should not be confused with genuine détente.

In his report to the Supreme Soviet the Finance Minister Vasily Garbuzov stated that the USSR was trying to promote a climate of trust and to return international relations to the path of "détente". He then announced a substantial increase in the military budget. Most politicians in the West are apparently following a similar strategy of expanding both defence against, and contacts with, the other side. But there are exceptions. Mr Kinnock offered to eliminate Britain's nuclear defences in return for a promise from President Chernenko not to target his rockets on the United Kingdom. The Soviet leader called the Labour Party's defence programme a responsible approach and maintained that "the USSR is opposed in principle to use of nuclear arms". His predecessor described unilateralism as "naïveté".

More high level meetings are planned. President Chernenko may visit France, while his heir-apparent, Mikhail Gorbachev, is expected soon in Britain, to be followed later by the Foreign

Minister Mr Gromyko. The American Secretary of state Mr Shultz is to meet Mr Gromyko in Geneva early next year to discuss new arms-control agreements. The gates of the Kremlin are open again. By order of the party, the climate is to be improved.

The CND has shown its reluctance to disrupt what it feels is a positive trend in Moscow. It refused to denounce the Soviet arms build-up while continuing to attack Washington. However, the unofficial peace movements in the eastern block continue to emphasize that there can be no genuine progress on arms limitation without an equally strong commitment to human rights. Relaxation of tension must be based on clearly verifiable agreements in both spheres.

If Mr Kinnock were prepared to pursue humanitarian issues as openly as the question of reducing nuclear weapons, the Kremlin would not have found his approach quite as "responsible". Yet the Soviet leaders must be told again and again that when they flagrantly abuse international accords on human rights they make it so much more difficult to reach agreements on other essential matters.

When Chancellor Sinowatz of Austria visited Moscow this week he emphasized how Soviet-Austrian cooperation proved that countries with different political systems could co-exist happily in peace. But only weeks

before, Czech and East German fugitives were shot attempting to escape across the Austrian border. And more recently, at another border in Korea, a Soviet defector started a battle in which several soldiers died. Hundreds of Poles embark on a one-way voyage from their homeland in which brutal police assault critics of the regime. Is this really a basis for "peaceful co-existence"?

In Moscow Stalin is increasingly remembered in newspapers, journals and films as a great military and economic leader. What were even recently described as his "negative features" now go unmentioned. But his influence is still felt in the camps; over 900 political prisoners are known by name, and there are certainly more whose names are unknown in the West. A distressing number of these prisoners of conscience have died this year, crushed by the wretched conditions of their confinement; among them were the young journalist Valery Marchenko and two members of the Ukrainian group for monitoring the observance of the Helsinki accords.

Increasing communication with the Soviet leaders certainly offers more hope of achieving some relaxation of tensions. But it is not enough to shake their hands. They must be reminded that civilized states are expected to honour all their agreements, not merely those that are convenient.

Student burden on parental income

From Dr Keith Hampson, MP for Leeds North West (Conservative)

Sir, The more one looks at Sir Keith Joseph's proposals on the parental contribution, the more one wonders how well prepared the details have been and whether ministers are operating under some false impressions.

For instance, the so-called "residual" income on which the parental contribution is assessed should not be confused with net after-tax income. A joint husband and wife income of £20,000 (the husband, for example, a salesman and his wife a secretary) could have an assessed residual income of £19,000, when actually their after-tax income would be under £15,000.

On the basis of the residual figure they would have to find for a son at London University £2,290 (plus travel costs). This means that their son is consuming over 15 per cent of their net income.

To take another example, a family earning £20,000 gross, with two children at a provincial university, who are paying a parental contribution of £1,085 for each child, each of whom collects a grant of £575, will find that in 1985-86 there will be no grant for their children and they will have to find £1,830 for each child, plus for the first time, tuition fees of £138 for each child. They will thus have to find almost £4,000 out of net income of some £15,000.

One other unnoticed consideration is the discrimination against students living at home which is going to result. All governments have wanted to encourage this category because of the lower cost to the Treasury. There are about 40,000 of them. Yet the new proposals on fees make it much less attractive to live at home.

Fees will begin to be paid on a residual income of £18,544 if the student is at London University, at £17,224 if the student is at a provincial university, but at a residual income of only £15,824 if the student is living at home. Are ministers aware of this, and if so what on earth is the justification?

The fact of the matter is that all recent governments have been unable to resist tinkering with both fees and grants. There has been nothing that could be remotely called a coherent strategy. Sir Keith needs not only to reshape his present package, he needs to start again from first principles.

Yours sincerely,
KEITH HAMPSON,
House of Commons,
November 30.

From Mr Michael Poole

Sir, I calculate that 48 per cent of my good but not remarkable salary is lost in direct and indirect taxation including rates, VAT, etc. This contribution far outweighs the "social wage" that my family receives, but I do not resent it as the balance helps the old, the sick and the unemployed whose ranks any of us may join.

I may be less happy, yet not resentful, about supporting ineffectual nationalised industries, French farmers, those who will not work, or even strikers' families.

But what I am really angry about is that, while my taxes send other people's sons and daughters to university, I shall not now be able to send my own. Three of them have 31 O levels between them; one with three A-grade A levels, the next two promising similar results. What is left of my income cannot possibly support the full cost of their further education: the "maximum £4,000 contribution" is as far beyond my reach as the Moon.

University may be for the minority but it is not a privilege; for those with the ability it is an obligation. Our tottering nation needs them as never before. What waste, what injustice, and, Sir Keith, what timing!

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL POOLE,
19 St Albans Avenue,
Weidbridge, Surrey.

Doubts on Church poll questions

From the Archbishop of York

Sir, Your recent report (November 22) on the preliminary findings of the Gallup Poll on current religious attitudes in the Church of England, has alerted me to an important question about the sponsorship of such polls. This particular one is sponsored by the Church Society, a body representing one extreme view of the Church of England, which has very definite views on many of the topics covered by the questionnaire.

I do not question its right to elicit opinion on such topics, nor do I question the objectivity of the Gallup organization. I am, however, disturbed by the extent to which the firm in which questions are asked sets limits on the possible types of answer, and thus prescribes the ground on which the discussion of complex issues takes place.

The results of the poll then give a quasi-scientific status to findings whose basic presuppositions have been placed beyond criticism by the way in which the questionnaire has been constructed.

What are we to make of a question like "Do you think that the Church should or should not take sides in political issues or not?" Apart from being illiterate and containing at least three ambiguous terms, the question allows no scope for what is surely the only sensible answer - "It all depends..." How in the face of such a question could one distinguish, say, between Hitler's Germany and Northern Ireland?

The theological sections in this questionnaire are even more naive, slanted, ambiguous and unanswerable. On the Virgin Birth for

example there is a choice between historical fact and legend. The Bible, according to the pollsters, is either of divine authority with absolutely reliable teachings, or mostly so, or just a collection of stories and fables. The presence of Christ in the Communion Service is either bodily or spiritual in the bread and wine, or spiritual, not in the bread and wine, but in the hearts of believers.

Admittedly many people do think about theology in very simplistic terms. But my complaint is that by giving absurd questions the statistical dignity which results from inclusion in a poll, popular thinking on the subject is pushed more and more in the direction of unreal and unnecessary opposition. Polls of this kind, in other words, by oversimplifying complex issues, can assist in the disastrous process of polarization.

If such a polarization is already in the mind, and in the brief, of the sponsoring organisation, then whatever the actual answers to the questions, part of its purpose is accomplished. This is why the issue of sponsorship is important.

I do not know what the remedy might be. It would be unfair to restrict anybody's right to commission a poll, and I am not suggesting this. Might it not be possible, however, for pollsters to mark all questionnaires clearly with the name of the sponsoring agent?

Yours faithfully,
JOHN EBOR,
Bishopthorpe,
York,
November 26.

Ancient woodlands

From the Director of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

Sir, Dr Charles Watkins (November 19) rightly pointed out the Forestry Commission's failure in its recent *Broadleaves in Britain* Review to close the loopholes in the tree-felling licence system which pose a threat to our broadleaved woods.

The review has many other shortcomings and is seen by many conservationists as a classic case of fiddling while Rome burns.

In recent decades the commission has presided over the conforestation and clearance of thousands of acres of our ancient woodland heritage.

The long awaited review fails to call for a halt to woodland clearance or conforestation, let alone expansion of our broadleaved estate despite its acceptance that what survives today is a result of good fortune rather than proper planning.

Neither does it suggest that many coniferised ancient woods could be rehabilitated to at least part of their former glory.

Proposals for further assistance to woodland owners are at best halfhearted; they include no grants for sensitive long-term management and reject capital tax concessions for

ancient woods. The continued reduction in staff in the commission can only lead to poorer advisory services, when what is so badly needed is multi-disciplinary advice on management, marketing and conservation.

The commission welcomes and will use the ancient woodland inventories being prepared by the Nature Conservancy Council and accepts that conservation in ancient woods is of primary importance, but is inexplicably silent about the need to involve the NCC in the future management of these woods.

The commissioners are now reviewing their policies for broadleaved woods in the light of submissions received. It would be an unfortunate tragedy if this opportunity was lost to recognise the multiple uses and values of our broadleaved woods and the nation was condemned to watch over a continuing decline in our woodland heritage and its wildlife.

Yours faithfully,
IAN PREST, Director,
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds,
The Lodge,
Bedfordshire,
November 22.

Power and superpower

From Professor J. Rotblat

Sir, There are several disturbing notions in your leader today (November 26), but I want to comment on only one, the nuclear issue. You suggest that President Reagan's policy of negotiation from strength has worked, as evidenced by the Soviet willingness to resume negotiations.

This willingness is interpreted as a failure of Soviet diplomacy. However, the fact is overlooked that during the year since the Geneva talks broke off the Soviets were not idle; they resumed the deployment of SS20s (the original reason for Nato's decision to deploy Pershing II and cruise missiles) and stationed them in Czechoslovakia and East Germany. Thus they could claim that they are returning to the negotiations from a greater position of strength than a year ago.

Whatever the interpretations, the fact remains that the negotiations will resume from a higher level of nuclear armaments. Can anybody feel happy about this? Have the "positions of strength" increased the security of either side?

Obviously, you are not satisfied with the present position of the West, since you urge the Americans to improve their strategic nuclear superiority and persist with further build-ups, such as the Strategic Defense Initiative. Is there any meaning in nuclear superiority, when a tiny fraction of the arsenal of both sides is enough to ensure deterrence?

As for SDI, the history of the nuclear arms race shows that any new development, whether offensive or defensive systems, leads to an intensification of the race by necessitating further steps. The action-reaction syndrome sees to this.

Sir, you are advocating a hard, uncompromising policy in relation to the Soviets. But in this nuclear age there is a real danger that such a policy will result in the destruction of the very ideals you want to safeguard. You should think again.

Yours faithfully,
J. ROTBLAT,
The Athenaeum,
Fell Mall, SW1,
November 26.

Terrifying experience

From Dr Tony M. Ridley

Sir, We are conducting a full enquiry into the Oxford Circus station fire last Friday and its aftermath. This will cover all aspects of the incident, including the way it was handled at all levels.

Information from Mr John Fowler (November 28), whom I have only now been able to contact, or anyone else who was involved would be most helpful in establishing whether any such failure as he described was due to equipment having been damaged by the fire - as seems likely - or a shortcoming in procedure.

Yours faithfully,
TONY M. RIDLEY,
Managing Director (Railways),
London Regional Transport,
55 Broadway, SW1,
November 30.

Tail-back town

From Mr J. Hewish

Sir, How Hardy-esque is the Okehampton situation: on one side the Valley of the Great Dairies, on the other, Egdon Heath! Only contemporary man could suppose that there is a solution to such a dilemma.

But the question all Hardy's values imply is, why do most fiscal and other policies favour the car as against other less environmentally destructive forms of transport? Could it be that to do otherwise would retard the conversion of Britain into one large industrial estate, a process so dear to the present administration?

Yours faithfully,
J. HEWISH,
Flat 3,
47 Dartmouth Park Hill, NW5,
November 27.

Up in the air

From Mr J. A. J. Berry

Sir, If Miss Barbara Crispin (November 28) believes the Post Office Tower (now in fact Telecom Tower) to be one of the most elegant and distinctive London landmarks then she herself has become hopelessly caught up in the euphoria about the privatization of the company.

From my window it looks like the rear end of an abandoned space rocket.

Yours faithfully,
JAMIE BERRY,
Flat Seven,
34/36 Harcourt Terrace, SW10,
November 28.

From Mr T. A. Matthews

Sir, If, as forecast, British Telecom will have approximately two million shareholders what will happen when the annual general meeting is held to which all shareholders are invited to attend?

Yours faithfully,
TOM MATTHEWS,
78 Primley Road,
Stamford,
November 28.

Imprisoned in Ethiopia

From Mr David Harris, MP for St Ives (Conservative)

Sir, While attention is rightly focused on the famine in Ethiopia, I wonder if I could raise the plight of the 10 members of the family of the former Emperor, Haile Selassie, who have been held in prison in Addis Ababa, for some 10 years.

While it would be completely wrong to use food as a bargaining counter, the Ethiopian authorities should know that there are many people in Britain who are deeply concerned, purely on humanitarian grounds, about the prisoners' welfare. Seven of them are women, including the daughter of the late Emperor and she is now in her seventies.

Those of us who have been worried about their health for some time had been pinning our hopes on a possible amnesty last September to mark the tenth anniversary of the revolution in Ethiopia. Unfortunately, this event came and went without their release.

Surely, the Ethiopian Government should now allow these unfortunate people to slip quietly out of the country, secure in the knowledge that they pose no political threat to the present administration. Such an act of mercy would do a great deal to improve relations between Britain and Ethiopia.

Although I have concentrated on members of this particular family - mainly because several of them are well known in Britain, particularly two who received part of their schooling at Penzance in my constituency - I should make it clear that there is general concern about political prisoners in Ethiopia who have been held without trial.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID HARRIS,
House of Commons,
November 14.

No strings attached

From the Director of the National Council for Voluntary Organisations

Sir, Digby Anderson (November 21) misunderstands the nature of voluntary organizations. He suggests that because the welfare state has failed, voluntary bodies (with increased funding from a public encouraged to give more as a result of fiscal changes) should provide the services now provided by central and local government.

In the first place I do not believe there is evidence to substantiate a claim that "the welfare state has failed". There is evidence that the dreams of a welfare state providing Government-financed and Government-provided services from the womb to the tomb have not been realised. But for many years now we have been moving towards a partnership of state, voluntary and privately provided services.

The challenge now is to tune that partnership, particularly between local government and voluntary organizations, to the changing needs of the future.

Seriously, voluntary organizations need to be understood for what they are: independent bodies, free to determine their own tasks and priorities, free to accept or reject government grants. That is their strength, but in Digby Anderson's welfare world that would be their limitation if we came to rely entirely on voluntary organizations for the provision of all welfare services.

Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS HINTON,
Director,
National Council for Voluntary Organisations,
26 Bedford Square, WCI,
November 21.

Pension law

From Dr R. F. Master

Sir, Mr Graham Seargent, in his thoughtful *Economic Commentary* of November 14 on the possibilities of fiscal treatment of pension funds at various stages, writes, "The IFS (Institute of Fiscal Studies) study even described taxing lump sums as a 'desirable simplification of pension fund taxation'."

His table of estimated costs of pension relief, 1983-84, omits a vital figure: the sum that accrues to either the pension fund or to the Exchequer at the final reckoning - the demise of the annuitant or his spouse.

The average citizen appreciates the tax exemption of his pension contributions and the "lump sum" on retirement, tempered by the certain knowledge that his pension will "die with him".

If, in the interests of fiscal equality, taxation was to be levied at each stage, is it not logical that the balance of a person's pension cash fund - be it a notional sum, as in the public sector, or funded, as in the private sector - should ultimately rest in the estate of annuitant?

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
ROSHAN F. MASTER,
Lower Centre Flat,
Billings View,
Billings End,
Blackburn,
Lancashire,
November 18.

won't
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THE ARTS

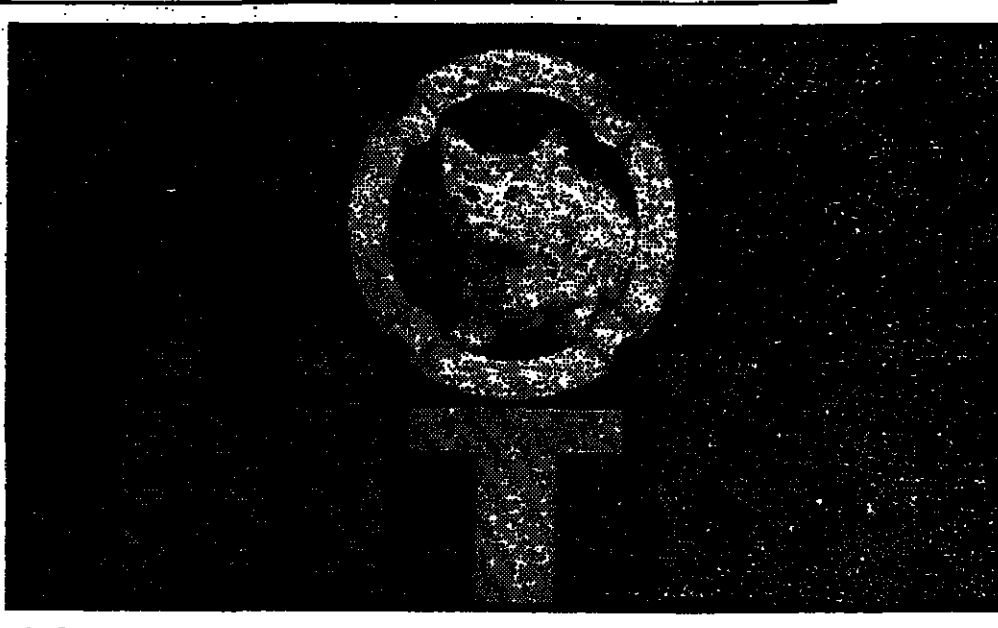
Television

Channel 4 and the NFT are taking mass American TV seriously. Bryan Appleyard reports

Fela Kuti is a master of Afro-Beat, a combination of traditional African rhythms with big band jazz. He is also serving five years in prison for an alleged attempt to smuggle £1,600 out of Nigeria earlier this year.

Nigeria's military rulers don't like Mr Kuti's lifestyle or his music and have that in common with successive governments over the last 14 years. His lyrics attack corruption, the country's rulers, and police brutality.

Some of his songs go on for more than 40 minutes. Arena, whose *Teacher Don't Teach Me Nonsense*, on BBC2 last night, didn't go quite that far though at times it seemed they might. As the lyrics, in broken English, contain lines such as "I sing there is no electricity" and "I sing of inflation", they fall quickly.



Daniel Travanti as Captain Furillo and the new face of American television

With style you can do anything

This is not to say that Mr Kuti does not know how to communicate, for he has made 40 albums since 1970 and he is a big hit, but it is to suggest that Arena on their side seemed unclear about just what they were trying to say.

The programme was a mish-mash of biography, musical interpretation, and political comment. One felt that Mr Kuti deserved sympathy and that his charges of corruption and mismanagement had a basis but for the life of me I could not have said at the end of it all just what he was proposing.

When Captain Furillo guns down a liquor store raider late at night he looks upset and his lawyer wife bursts into tears. A camera in the process of tracking languidly down a hospital corridor, picks up, apparently by accident, three separate plot lines before finally dipping into a room where a patient is dying of an unidentified disease.

Both the liquor store gunman in *Hill Street Blues* and a mysterious malaise in *St Elsewhere* are television standards. They could be in *Star Trek* and *Hutch* or *Dr Kildare*. But the context is radically different. It is not simply that the liberal consensus which underlies most American TV morality has become sharper and more sophisticated. Rather it is a case of a wholly new visual and narrative style which has been born of a rare combination of commercial interest and a somewhat haphazard variety of corporate faith.

The show was the creation of Steven Bochco and Michael Kozoll, the writers, but, perhaps more significantly, of Bob Butler, the director. Between them they evolved a loose, open plot structure of three or four narratives which connected, seemingly at random, in the crowded, sweaty New York police station. Butler's cameras tracked restlessly about at shoulder level accepting the vicissitudes of available light just as his microphones accepted near-impossible New York accents and completely impossible acoustics.

The effect was almost unique in American television - a drama series which actually required some effort on the part of the viewer. In fact it is an effort which often goes unrewarded - the plots beneath the whorls are often the same old stories scrambled for effect. But usually the effort is saved by the firm grip maintained on characters beneath the shifting and nervous editing.

But Butler left after the first series and two key changes were made for the second. More footage was shot outside and it was decided that at least one plot in each episode should have a beginning, a middle and an end. The effect was a dilution which made the original style look fractionally more empty, virtuosity rather than innovation.

They filmed him when he topped the bill at Glastonbury this summer and this experience seemed to have so affected them that they lost their way completely. His brother and other friends and political opponents appeared at the end to express their concern but I suspect by this time, unless one had been wowed at Glastonbury, it was too much like one of the things that Mr Kuti sings about: confusion, which is a pity for him and for us.

By contrast, Anglia's *Survival Special*, *Together They Stand*, filmed by Simon Trevor, was a masterpiece of purposeful effort and an object lesson in how a society should conduct itself. The subjects were the dwarf mimosas of Kenya whose selfless habits and community organization Mr Trevor captured with brilliant technique making it the best film of its type I have seen this year.

The company in question is MTM Enterprises, which was founded in 1979 by Mary Tyler Moore and her then husband Grant Tinker. Its seed money came from *The Mary Tyler Moore Show* which, within the static conventions of American comedy shows, managed to be funny and surprisingly caustic. For the American networks, however, even this relatively tame product seemed like a high risk. They were restricted by their advertisers and the need to remain within the lowest common denominators of public taste and intelligence. Crude, safe ratings were all that mattered.

But this show hinted at a degree of audience selectivity. It offered the possibility of bringing a higher quality - in other words higher spending - viewer in the form of the educated, affluent young middle class. Spin-offs like *Rhoda* and *Lou Grant* followed, both pursuing the carefully contained liberalism and both roughly remaining within the confines of half-hour comedy and one-hour drama.

In the case of *Lou Grant* the policy benefited. Ed Assner, the star, became too vociferous on subjects like El Salvador and the series was marked out as veering dangerously in the direction of "pinko". CBS pulled out complaining about ratings.

Curiously the company decided to become more radical - but this time the innovations were stylistic. The first episodes of *Hill Street Blues* in 1980 were set back by the network as being improperly lit and partly inaudible. MTM stamped its feet, the show was networked and deluged with honours. The ratings came later but at least they came.

The effect was almost unique in American television - a drama series which actually required some effort on the part of the viewer. In fact it is an effort which often goes unrewarded - the plots beneath the whorls are often the same old stories scrambled for effect. But usually the effort is saved by the firm grip maintained on characters beneath the shifting and nervous editing.

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● The Channel 4 evening of MTM programmes is on Monday, December 10. The season at the National Film Theatre runs intermittently from Friday, December 7 to December 17. The British Film Institute is publishing MTM: Quality Television (£8.95) next week.

Dennis Hackett

Concert

Jon Kimura Parker
Queen Elizabeth Hall

The expansive, lionizing performance of the Leeds Piano Competition winner who at his victory had embraced the Duchess of Kent as if she herself had won, drew a full house to his South Bank recital on Thursday night. Expectations, and I suspect curiosity, were at this level certainly satisfied.

Mr Kimura Parker's programme had an intelligently planned unity, a warmth of communication, and an assured strength of purpose which exactly matched his playing. The idea of formal baroque artifice answered by the play of variation ran through the evening - what better way to

show off a repertoire of technical and imaginative skills? The starting point was Bach's Toccata in G minor, and the finishing post the final, cataclysmic fugue of Samuel Barber's Sonata.

For Chopin (and Mr Parker is not yet an instinctive Chopin player) the artful sense of timing and weighting, of sudden toughenings of texture and sudden silences which had animated his Bach, were used to motivate the F minor Ballade's romantic narrative. For Brahms, and his *Variations and Fugue on a Theme of Handel*, Mr Parker turned to its transformations as if he was a child let loose on a box of toys. He worked each variation hard, drawing out the maximum fun as well as intellectual challenge. And he used the last three

numbers as an apotheosis of that powerful cumulation of idea and energy which he excels at realizing.

The Barber Sonata, with its broad cyclorama of knotted, propulsive motive, brilliant scherzo and harrowing Adagio, knitted together many of Parker's attributes. But it also provoked the question as to whether the programme as a whole showed true versatility as well as confident mastery of its changing idioms. In Revel's *Jeux d'Eau*, for instance, Parker's very fluency seemed to dominate the subtle particularity of Revel's idiom; and at the end of the evening it was his personality, rather than the faces of his five composers, that remained in the memory.

Hilary Finch



Reinagle's 'Statewharf at Brathay'

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Opera
Orpheus In The Underworld
RAM

Opera, it seems, is being taken very seriously these days at the Royal Academy of Music. Recently the students gave a highly creditable version of *The Coronation of Poppea* and next term Tippett's *The Knot Garden* is planned. To maintain some balance, what better work than Offenbach's chuckling denigration of pretentiousness, *Orpheus In The Underworld*?

If the acting and singing do not always match each other in quality, there are nevertheless some fine character portrayals. David Barrell's mock sinister Pluto is regaled with an Inspector Clouseau-like accent; he also manages some confident singing. Meanwhile his opposite number, the pompous, hypocritical Jupiter, is given rather more than a hint of the colonial brigadier by Rhodri Britton.

Otherwise regional inflexions are the order of the day and with someone with a name like Huw Evans playing the winged messenger Mercury with a sensitive Welsh lilt, I suspect that some of them could be genuine. No hint of a slip betrayed David Dyer, who should he fall as a singer, could do worse than to try his hand at being a stand-up comic.

In contrast, Christopher Ventris's Orpheus sounds as though he belongs in the television series *Brass*, though his singing is somewhat less sharp than his acting. Lyne Davies is a more complete performer, and after a slightly nervous start, she displayed a mature, and beautiful voice. Good work, too, from the pit, with Nicholas Cleobury extracting some appropriately buoyant rhythms.

Stephen Pettitt

Galleries
The wild at bay

The Discovery of the Lake District
Victoria and Albert Museum

The British never seem to have been good at generalizing: revelation always comes from the accumulation of particular instances. Thus, though the concepts of the Sublime and the Picturesque (and indeed the Beautiful as neatly distinguished from the other two) were largely a British invention, they did not spring fully formed out of the brain of Burke and Uvedale Price. A lot of emotional experimentation had to take place first, and most of it took place in the Lake District. The earlier part of *The Discovery of the Lake District*, at the Victoria and Albert until January 17, is devoted to chronicling the stages of this adventure in analysis.

Typically of British artists, they went, they saw and then they started to make a construct out of their observations. The Lakes, being wild and primitive and distant, did not begin to attract much attention until well into the eighteenth century. Even then, it was not the wilder aspects which appealed so much as the possibilities the area offered of elegant comparison with Classical notions of Arcadia. But, as the century progressed, more and more visitors, equipped with pen and pencil, found that they were enjoying safe if not quite vicarious thrills contemplating crags and waterfalls, and, if a respectable explanation for these hardly Classical frissons were needed, there was Burke to

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It has been agreed between Miss Linda Esther Gray and English National Opera that she will not sing the role of Isolde in the company's forthcoming production of *Tristan and Isolde* at the London Coliseum. Miss Gray suffered from a severe virus infection earlier in the year. Isolde will now be sung by the American soprano Johanna Meier.

Radio
The good news

I thought when it started that the first of Radio 4's five-part series, *The State of the Nation* (November 15) was going to consist very largely of propaganda for the delights of Northern Ireland as the Costa Brava of the North. But in fairness its surprisingly sunny opening was no more than a reasonable attempt at a proper balance. It is the case and ought to be pointed out that in the greater part of the Province the Troubles have made little or no mark; people get on with their lives in beautiful, tranquil surroundings. The second programme turned to Wales, where there was less need to set the record straight - or only in so far as it is no longer, if it ever was, a land of hymn-singing, chapel-going, seaweed-eating, Labour-voting rugby players. So Patrick Hannan as presenter could immediately immerse his listeners in what David Dunseith for Ulster quite soon came round to: a thorough, realistic and most interesting assessment of conditions in both countries.

If life in Northern Ireland is in many ways a great deal more active, prosperous and peaceful than outsiders imagine, this misconception is surely an illustration of the power of press and broadcasting to create very dramatic, but not quite accurate impressions: news from across the water is almost by definition bad news; and bad news nearly always means sectarian strife, another bomb, another clutch of deaths.

One effect of Mr Dunseith's programme was to remind us that, besides a bit of good news, there are other forms of bad news too and one of them - no doubt a barometer of some sort - is the country's very high level of alcoholism. Ten or eleven per thousand may not sound too dire until you learn that 40 per cent of the population are strict abstainers. Of course we heard about the troubles too, and came away with naught for our comfort. The conclusion seemed to be that compromise, which alone might point a way out, remains impossible since Loyalist and nationalist alike see the smallest concessions as significant surrender.

To a lesser degree Wales now has that problem too and does so in as far as it is a country of threatened mining communities. As a whole, Mr Hannan's programme told me that Wales, in North and South, is suffering from slow death of heavy industry and that this and recession and very high population growth have all acted together.

Some areas are, as they say, meeting the challenge. But in the mining districts, challenge

David Wade

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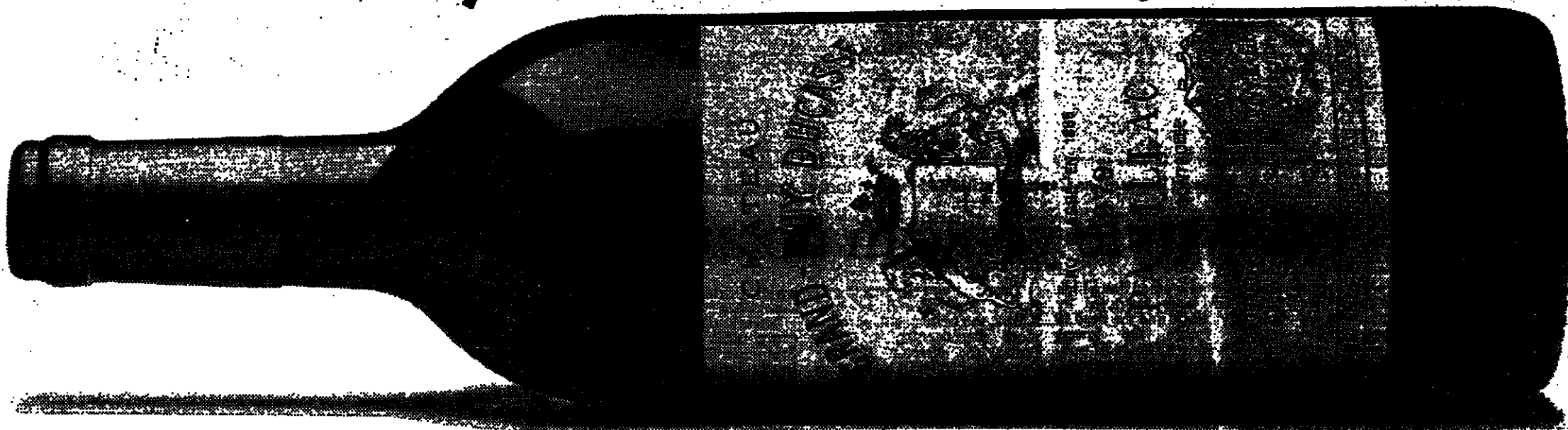
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You'll find the complete list in most of our larger stores and most carry a good selection.

We hope you'll enjoy reading about the wines below and that you'll be tempted to turn a wine list into something even more satisfying.

A shopping list.

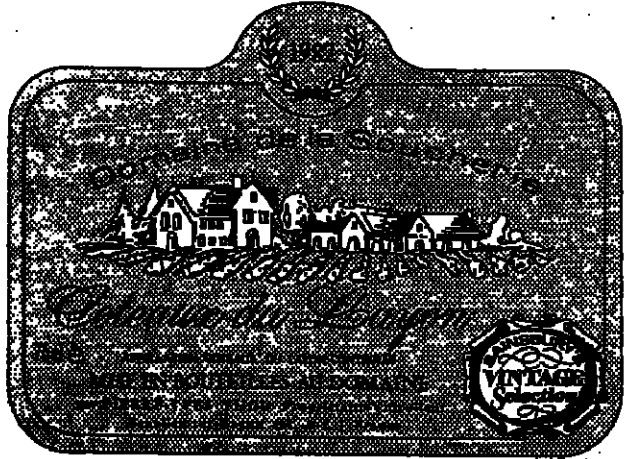
1. Château de la Dimerie Muscadet De Sèvre et Maine Sur Lie 1983. This Muscadet is named after two of the Loire's great tributaries and with the added fruit and body resulting from remaining on the lees ("sur lie") is the ideal accompaniment to all fish – especially shellfish. A light, dry and refreshing white wine £2.55.

2. Moulin Touchais 1964 Anjou. The valley of the Loire shelters the Chenin Blanc vines from which are made some exceptional white wines. In the limestone "caves" at Doué la Fontaine lies a huge selection of some of France's best kept wine secrets. Moulin Touchais is one. The perfect dessert wine with plenty of fruit and a balanced sweetness best revealed when chilled. £5.95.

3. Château des Bidaudières 1983 Vouvray. The Chenin Blanc grape produces, along the Loire, wines which vary from dry to very sweet according to conditions. Nowhere is this contrast more marked than in Vouvray, on the north bank to the east of Tours. This wine lies mid-way in the sweetness range and so is an ideal companion for lighter desserts or fruit. At its best lightly chilled when it also serves excellently as an aperitif. £3.25.

4. Domaine de la Bizolière 1983 Savennières. Savennières lies just downstream of the town of Angers in the Anjou-Saumur region of the Loire Valley. Here the Chenin Blanc produces long-lived, firm-bodied, dry white wines of which this is a fine example from a single domaine. Serve lightly chilled with white meat or fish dishes. £3.60.

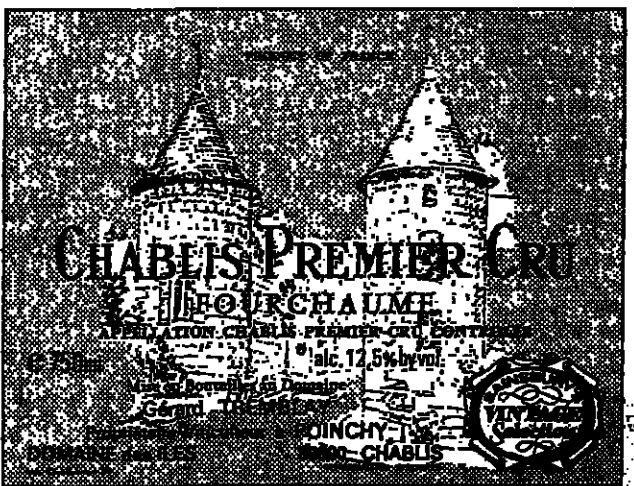
5. Sancerre Les Perriers 1982 or 1983. The two wine producing districts of Sancerre and Pouilly Fumé lie on the Loire to the south-east of Orleans, where the Sauvignon Blanc and the limestone soil combine to produce white wines which are dry, flinty and often slightly smoky. Sancerre, a charming village on the west bank of the river, gives its name to this splendid accompaniment to all fish dishes. £4.45.



6. Domaine de la Soucherie 1982 Côteaux du Layon. In the vineyards of this single domaine in the Côteaux du Layon, the unique micro-climate of this sheltered region to the south of the River Loire allows the grapes of the Chenin Blanc to ripen to full sweet-

ness. The result is a rich dessert wine, which, whilst sweet, has a fine balancing acidity on the finish. £2.79.

7. Château Tertre du Moulin 1982 or 1983 Entre-Deux-Mers. Between the "two seas" of the Dordogne and Garonne lies a vast area of wine production. The white wines of this area are allowed the appellation "Entre-Deux-Mers." This is a crisp, fruity dry white wine from a grower with an established reputation for consistent quality. Serve lightly chilled on its own or with fish dishes. £2.55.



8. Chablis Premier Cru 1983 Fourchaume or Montmain. To the north-west of Dijon in Burgundy lies Chablis, where the Chardonnay vines thrive in the calcareous soil known as "Kimmeridge clay." The resulting wine is distinctively green-gold in colour and dry and crisp on the palate; it rewards chilling and is equally at home with fish or white meat. £4.45.

9. Château Ferrande 1982 or 1983 Graves. The Graves district produces some fine dry white wines in addition to its more famous reds. This white wine inherits its fine balance from the blending of Sauvignon and Semillon grapes. It's a crisp dry medium-bodied white wine at its best when served lightly chilled with poultry or fish. £3.65.

10. Clos St. Georges 1981 or 1983 Graves Supérieures. Long before Graves was known for the red wines with which it is now most associated, it had a high reputation for sweet white wines. Clos St. Georges is found on the borders of Barsac. It has depth, style and length, which comes through impressively on the palate. £2.80.

11. Meursault Moillard 1981 or 1982. Meursault lies in the heart of the Côte de Beaune, which produces some of the world's finest dry white wines, thanks to the glory of the Chardonnay grape and ideal limestone soil. Smooth, mellow, full and rounded the Meursaults nevertheless possess a fine, long dry finish which complements the subtleties of classic white meat and fish dishes. £6.75.

12. Domaine Mondange 1983 St. Vrain. Undoubtedly Pouilly Fuisse is the most famous of the white Mâconnais wines of southern Burgundy. However the wines of its lesser known neighbouring appellation St. Vrain are an excellent alternative. Coming from a single domaine, this wine, like its more famous counterpart, is made from the classic Chardonnay grape and is a full white wine with an appealing dry finish. When lightly chilled it will enhance poultry or fish dishes. £3.45.

13. Muscat de Beaumes de Venise 1982. This sweet white wine takes its name from one of the "villages" of the Côte du Rhône. Unlike the reds of the area it is produced according to a different tradition. The Muscat grapes are partially fermented and then fortified with grape spirit. The result is a highly individual wine with a delicate perfume and flavour. A dessert wine of great distinction, serve chilled. £4.65.

14. Domaine du Colombier 1982 or 1983 Chinon. Though less well-known than the whites there are some fine fresh lightreds from the gravel soils of the Loire. This one has a distinct fruitiness and pleasant acidity. It is best enjoyed young and will happily accept a degree of chilling. £3.55.

15. Château Mirefleurs 1982 Bordeaux Supérieur. This château with its 125 acres of vineyards is situated in the commune of Yvrac in the Bordeaux region. A medium-bodied, dry red wine, it can be served

with casseroles and cheeses of all kinds. £5.45 Magnum.

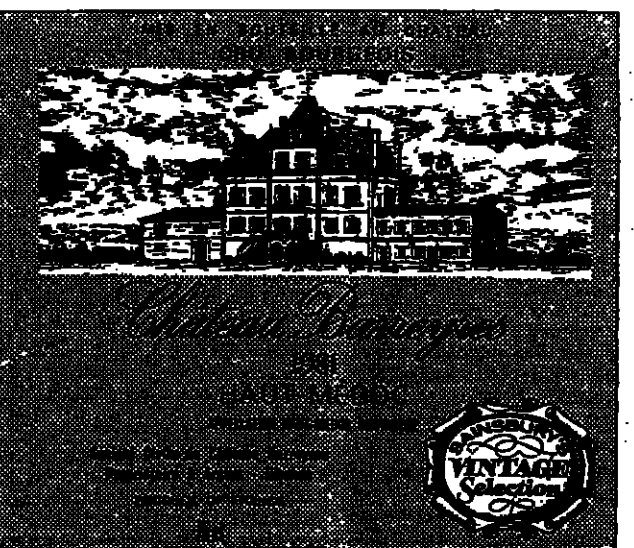
16. Château du Bousquet 1982 Côtes de Bourg. Whilst being planted with the same blend of grapes as the Médoc (Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc and Merlot) the vineyards of the Côtes de Bourg which lie on the opposite bank of the Gironde, are less well-known. This château lies amongst the best of the vineyards on the slopes near the river and produces a medium-bodied wine with good fruit and balance, which goes happily with most meats and cheeses. £2.99.

17. Château Mayne-Lalande 1981 Listrac. This excellent claret comes from Listrac, one of the lesser-known communes, situated to the north-west of Margaux in Bordeaux. The traditional Médoc blend of grapes produces a medium-bodied, dry red wine which has benefited from its time in cask prior to bottling. It is ideal with red meats and cheeses. £2.95.

18. Château Tourneau Cholle 1980 or 1982 Graves. The region of Graves lies to the south of the town of Bordeaux and produces large quantities of excellent wine – both red and white. This red wine, produced from the Bordeaux blend of grapes is of medium weight with a dry tannic finish. Like all good clarets it is aged in oak before bottling. £3.39.

19. Château Tourdes Combes 1979 St. Emilion. A number of St. Emilion properties were entitled to call their wines "Grand Cru" in the classification of 1955. This is one of them, producing a wine in which the predominance of the Merlot grape bestows its customary softness. It is a medium-bodied, dry red wine ready for drinking with red meats or cheese. £4.75.

20. Château Grand Puy Ducasse 1979 Pauillac. Officially a "Fifth Growth" in the 1855 classification, this is a classic claret from one of the most important communes in the Bordeaux region. The Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot grapes thrive in the clay and gravel soil of Pauillac and produce a wine with a wonderful balance of fruit and tannin which softens with the years. To be savoured with red meats or cheeses. £7.25.



21. Château Barreyres 1981 Haut-Médoc. The Médoc, on the west bank of the River Gironde is the most important wine district of Bordeaux. Here, from just north of Margaux, in the heart of the region is an excellent claret of medium weight which is stylish and fruity. Serve with red meat or cheeses. £3.35.

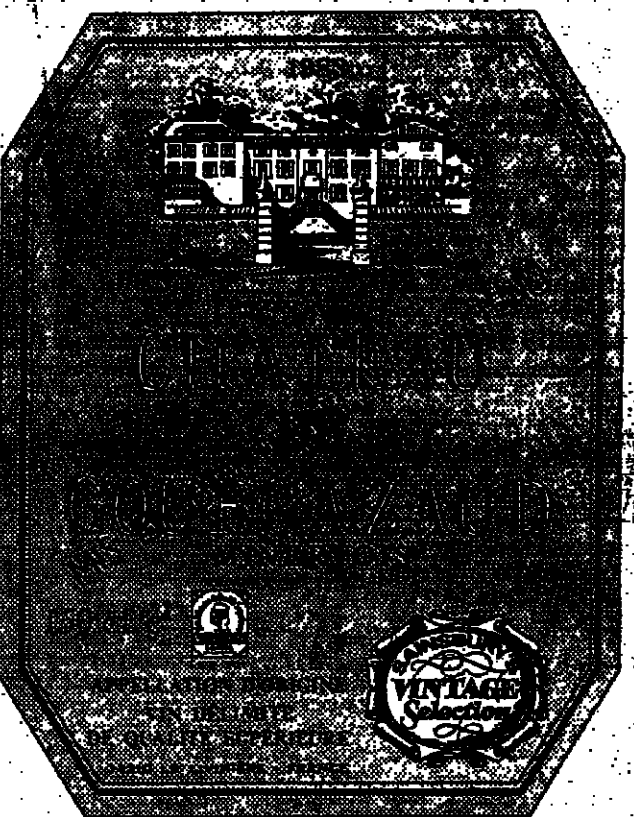
22. St. Arthour 1983. St. Arthour is the most northern of the villages which have been designated "Grand Cru" in the Beaujolais region and produces wines which are typical of the area: fruity, distinctive and fresh. It may be served with almost anything from salads to saucisson. £3.45.

23. Château de Poncié 1982 or 1983 Fleurie. Among the nine "Cru" villages which represent the best of the Beaujolais wines, Fleurie holds an honourable place. It is produced on the granite hills in the centre of the Beaujolais region, where the Gamay grape thrives. This individual property of 60 acres, produces a light, fruity wine of character – a natural partner to milder cheeses, cold meats or poultry. £4.15.

24. Château La Borie 1982 or 1983 Côtes du Rhône. This is the product of a vineyard which was totally replanted 20 years ago and has grown in reputation as a result. The presence of Syrah and Grenache in the blend gives the slight peppery sensation on the

palate which is so characteristic of a Rhône wine. £2.79.

25. Domaine André Brunel 1981 Châteauneuf-du-Pape. Châteauneuf is the home of the finest vineyards of the southern Rhône valley where the climate ensures enough sun to produce robust, full-bodied wines of considerable character. These wines are made from a blend in which Grenache, Mourvedre and Syrah predominate giving them their deep purple colour and heady perfume. Serve with a steak or a Stilton – it will more than hold its own. £4.75.



26. Château de Gourgazaud 1982 or 1983 Minervois. This property lies in the hilly Languedoc-Roussillon region of Southern France. The wine is distinctive and medium-bodied – robust enough for most meats and cheeses. £4.60 Magnum.

27. Kieddicher Heiligenstock Riesling Kabinett 1983 Rheingau – Dr. Weil. From the pride of Germany's wineland come some splendid and highly flavoured white wines and this is no exception. Elegant and well-balanced it is a distinguished accompaniment to most white meat and fish. £3.99.

28. Ockfener Geisberg Riesling Spätlese 1982 Saar – Gebert. Late-picked grapes on the warmer, south-facing slopes of the Geisberg vineyard in the Saar Valley produce a wine which whilst medium dry has a truly remarkable depth and concentration of fruit. It should be lightly chilled before serving with salads or fish. £3.75.

29. Lugana San Benedetto 1983 Zenato. In the Lombardy countryside to the south of Lake Garda the Trebbiano di Lugana grapes produce a wine which is very little known in this country but justly famed in its own. This is an elegant, crisp dry white wine from one of the region's leading winemakers. It should be served chilled with fish and white meat dishes. £3.45.

30. Villa Antinori 1979 Chianti Classico Riserva. This Chianti Classico comes from the highly respected Antinori family who have been making wine in Tuscany since the late 14th Century. The wine is matured in new oak casks for up to two years before being aged further in bottle. A complex and elegant red wine it is ideal with red meats, game or cheese. £3.65.

31. Viña Ardanza Rioja 1976. The red wines of the Rioja region in Northern Spain are known throughout the world for their distinctive bouquet and flavour. This fine example is made from a blend of Tempranillo and Gamacha grapes and its elegant smoothness has been enhanced by four years' maturation in oak casks. It is a full-bodied red wine which is ideal with all red meats and cheeses. £3.75.

32. Quinta da Bacalhôa 1982. This splendid Portuguese red wine of excellent quality deserves greater recognition. Made from a blend of Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot grapes, it is a dry, medium-bodied wine with great finesse and style. It should be served at room temperature with most meats and cheeses. £3.45.

Good wine costs less at Sainsbury's.

14, 15
Travel: Highland fling in the Peruvian Andes; Check-up on charters; Help for the disabled; Skiing in Switzerland

17
Values: Beryl Downing's alphabet of special interest presents; Eating Out at Christmas; Sending singing telegrams

THE TIMES Saturday

18, 19
Family Life goes whaling; In the Garden: Cuttings; Bridge; Chess; Review of Rock and Jazz records; Galleries, Photography

21, 22
The Week: Critics' guide to Television, Music, Dance, Opera, Theatre, Films, Radio, Auctions and Sport

1-7 DECEMBER 1984 A WEEKLY GUIDE TO LEISURE, ENTERTAINMENT AND THE ARTS

The Times pick of the High Street wines



Jane MacQuitty savours the varied pleasures and pitfalls of her favourite drink

I cannot remember the first glass of wine I drank. I do know it was at my parents' table, and that it was a good wine from a well-stocked cellar (20 years ago, buying *premier grand cru* claret and even *grand cru* burgundy was not the outrageously expensive pursuit it is now). I do remember, though, that I was very young at the time. It was probably wine cut with water, because my parents shared the enlightened continental view that their children were unlikely to get into trouble on such a harmless drink.

Of course, the inevitable happened: my brother got drunk, aged three, on Coronation Day from sneaking too many sips of champagne from guests' glasses. But I feel my mother was right to leave the house rule of wine with water for the children unchanged.

Since then it has been down hill all the way. Approaching my tenth anniversary as a wine writer I still find the subject absorbing. It contains a little of everything: viticulture and winemaking alone include biology, geography, history and chemistry. Travel is on the wine curriculum, too, as are languages - although I manage to scrape by with not much more than schoolgirl French. But perhaps the greatest challenge is that, no matter how many countries I visit, winemakers I

meet and wines I taste. I cannot hope to know it all: there is always another vintage, another wine producing region.

Wine has also introduced me to people, places and hospitality that I would never experience in any other job. One recent, memorable occasion was the invitation from Jean Hugel of Alsace to Peter Ziegler's fortieth birthday party last summer in Baden.

Twenty of us sat down to a five-hour gastronomic marathon of seven different courses accompanied by 36 wines. Of those, no less than 20 were magnificent, 1953 clarets, including Lafite, Pétus, Haut Brion and Cheval Blanc. To kick off with there were magnums of Krug '53, and to finish, a bottle of the legendary 1921 d'Yquem. Thankfully, wine appreciation is not all sniffing, slurping and spitting.

But wine has its nerve-racking moments, too. Imagine finishing a long, hard day of tasting, purple, tannic *en primeur* wines in Bordeaux to find that your host then expects you to pinpoint the entire range of wines he has selected for dinner with 100 per cent accuracy. At times like this, I try to remember the example of that lively octogenarian, Harry Waugh, who recently celebrated his first half century in wine.

Asked if he had ever mistaken Bordeaux for Burgundy, he replied: "Not since lunchtime".

It is an encouraging thought that there are lots of other wine fanatics out there. Winston Churchill, for instance, was so besotted with Pol Roger champagne that he named his racehorse after it and on a visit to Madeira in 1950, when served a rare 1792 solera wine, commented: "Do you realize that when this wine was made, Marie Antoinette was alive?"

André Simon recognized that you cannot take it with you and vowed that when he died there should be only one bottle left in his cellar. As he lived until his ninety-third year and was a renowned gastronome, it seems highly likely that he fulfilled his pledge.

Wine's great joys are its hundreds of nuances of flavour and style, influenced by endless permutations of different grape varieties, vintages, wine regions and wine-makers. Without this range of tastes, wine would be nothing, its history, anecdotes, romance, and mystery all meaningless. Unconvinced? Concentrate on grape varieties alone and you still have a multitude of different flavours: the lively, gooseberry-green taste of the Sauvignon Blanc grape, the musky-dusky perfume of the purple-black Syrah, the spicy lychee-like charms of the Gewürztraminer grape, the rich buttery character of a mature Chardonnay, the Riesling's racy flavour, the plummy fragrance of a good Pinot Noir, the grassy, blackcurrant character of a young Cabernet Sauvignon... I could go on; there are another 40 major varieties to go at least.

Christmas is a wonderful excuse to celebrate wine and you could hardly better *The Times* Top Christmas Wines recommended below.

Good taste at good prices

Christmas is coming and with it a deluge of decisions for the consumer. In order to help you answer the question "What are we going to give everyone to drink?", *The Times* held a wine tasting last week. The result is a festive wine list to suit every budget.

As the five leading supermarkets - ASDA, Marks & Spencer, Sainsbury's, Tesco, and Waitrose - now account for almost a third of the table wine sold in this country we decided to concentrate on their wines.

In order to discover whether those pricey supermarket "connoisseurs' choices" and "vintage selections" were worth the extra money we asked each supermarket to submit two wines in the three different categories - Christmas whites, reds and pudding wines - without any price limitations. As it happened all five presented both an expensive and inexpensive wine in each category. Consequently this means there is something for everyone: good but inexpensive wines for the connoisseur who resents pouring money down the unappreciative throats of Christmas guests and some finer and more expensive wines for the budget-conscious drinker who wants to splash out at Christmas.

The supermarkets were also told that their selections were to accompany the traditional Christmas meal, be it lunch or dinner, of a light starter such as turtle soup or fish mousse (with the option that the Christmas white could also serve as an aperitif), the festive bird with all its sauces and stuffings, and, finally, either Christmas pudding or an exotic fruit salad.

The Times team of John Higgins (JH), Arts Editor, Robin Young (RY) and Jane MacQuitty (JM), wine correspondent, was joined by Rosemary George (RG) Master of Wine and author, and James Rogers (JR), the expert taster from Cullens. As usual, all the wines were tasted blind.

Wines that the panel found a good buy at under £5 a bottle are marked *.

Christmas whites

- Charles Denery Brut, ASDA £2.95
Admittedly this was the first wine but everyone enthused about it, and except for JR gave it their top mark. Monsieur Denery comes from the small Champagne house of Charbault and the panel's comments ranged from "really flavoury warm toasty champagne with a good mousse" (JM) to RG's "good aperitif and first-course wine. Can you beat fizz for Christmas?"
- 1980 Meursault-Charmes, Chevaliers du Testavin, Waitrose £9.85
"Rich, ripe outstanding" (RY), "big, green vegetal taste" (JM), "good oaky Côte d'Or" (RG). Not an aperitif wine though and it needs food to show at its best.
- 1982 Gewürztraminer, Waitrose own-label £2.75
"Lovely floral bouquet with rich spicy lychee-like Gewürztraminer taste" (JM). JH also enjoyed its "flowery Alsace" taste as did RY.
- 1983 Lugana San Benedetto, F. Li Zareto, Sainsbury's £3.45
A spicy Gewürztraminer may not suit everyone so serve this "lively green mouthwatering wine" (JM). Made from the robbiano grape everyone enjoyed its "crisp, clean" (RG), "apple freshness" (JR) that goes especially well with any fish course.
- 1982 Chablis, Remy La Fort, Marks & Spencer £3.75
Made by the Chablisienne cooperative and while JMQ liked their '81 vintage she found this "pleasant green" wine "slightly thin". However, RY liked its "classy nose" and "attractive flavour" and did chablis enthusiast RG who recognized it.
- Valdepeña Blanco, Carthya Viticoltori, Trento, Tesco £1.79
Watching your budget? This "refreshing apple-green gulping wine" (JM) is for you. The

panel thought it a "well made fruity wine" (RG) albeit a shade unexciting.

Not recommended
7. 1983 Sancerre Domaine Saget, Guy Saget, ASDA £3.69
8. 1983 Pouilly-Fumé Les Grottes, Bailly Père et Fils, Tesco £3.79
9. 1983 St Michael Bereich Nierstein, Marks & Spencer £2.25
10. 1982 Meursault, Mollard, Sainsbury's £5.75.

Christmas reds

- 1979 Beaune, Domaine du Château de Meursault, Waitrose £3.75
Along with the Denery champagne this "only elegant Pinot Noir" (RG) was the star of the tasting. JMQ loved its "classic rich spicy Pinot Noir taste" and JR recognized both wine and producer: "mature classy stuff".
- 1981 Châteauneuf-du-Pape, Les Couverts, J. R. Quoit, Marks & Spencer £4.75
"Good gutsy fruity peppery flavour... would go with all the trimmings and the bird" (RG); both RY and JMQ agreed. JR also liked its "ripe peppery Rhôneish fruit". Excellent value for money.
- 1981 Châteauneuf-du-Pape, Domaine André Brunet, Sainsbury's £4.75
"Classy distinguished stuff but slightly tannic and austere" (RY). JH agreed: "It'd be very happy with this for Christmas dinner and even happier next year".
- 1982 Hermitage, Cécile Mussel, Tesco £6.19
"Another great classic Rhône", "another classy, nicely balanced wine" (JR and RY). RG and JMQ were less keen.
- 1980 Châteauneuf-de-Mark, Marks & Spencer £2.50
RY felt this fifth-growth claret from a light year "would stand up to most festive birds" but JR thought this "quite classy claret" was "stinky" as did RG "bit too tough and young".
- 1981 Châteauneuf-de-Mark, Sainsbury's £3.35

"Rather austere earthy nose and palate" RG commented on this *cru bourgeois* which JR felt "needs more time".

Not recommended
7. 1982 Châteauneuf de Beasat, Côtés du Rhône, C. Aubert, ASDA £2.49
JMQ felt this "soft spicy-fruity wine" might be "overpowered by the sauces and stuffings". JH and RY felt it lacked "character" and "pezz".

Not recommended
8. 1981 Crozes-Hermitage, Caves des Clairmonts, Waitrose £2.95
9. 1982 Fleurie La Treille, Louis Abiet, ASDA £3.85
10. Casteller, Cantini Viticoltori Trento, Tesco £1.79

Pudding wines

- 1983 Muscat de Beaumes de Venise, Caves des Vignerons, Sainsbury's £4.65
Everyone recognized this "apricot-gold fresh clean grapey Muscat" (JM). RG felt it could "counteract Christmas pud" while JR and JH thought it would also be good with the "nuts and raisins". A useful and inexpensive festive standby and with its screw-top bottle it can be kept in the fridge and poured at will.
- 1981 Châteauneuf-Bastor-Lamontagne, Waitrose £4.75
A star-burst Sauternes. With its "intense clean pineapple fruit" (JM) and rich golden colour it would look good on any festive table. Perhaps better with a Christmas fruit salad than with the plum pudding.
- 1979 Châteauneuf de Rayne Vignau, Tesco £6.59
A classed growth Sauternes whose "deep rich flavour" (JR), "botrytis honey" (RG) and "crystallized ripe peachy taste" (JM) would, perhaps, as RG suggested, be better "on its own and not with pud".
- 1978 Aligier-Schloss Hammerstein, Sainsbury's £4.79
This rich sweet and pricey German mouthful made from the pungent Siegerrebe and Ortega grapes reminded both

JR and JMQ of asparagus. RY was much more enthusiastic as was JH: "Happy at last..."

Not recommended
5. 1977 Châteauneuf-Bastor-Lamontagne, Waitrose £3.45
"Getting classic and staidier" (JR) this "zingy fruity wine" (JM) had a whiff of sulphur about it too.

Not recommended
6. 1983 Clos Saint-Georges, Gallaire, Sainsbury's £2.80
As always JMQ enjoyed the "strong intense almost lychee fruit" of this Graves Supérieur but everyone else merely found it a "pleasant straightforward sweetie" (RY).

Not recommended
6. 1976 Côteaux du Layon, Union Agricole du Pays de Loire, Tesco £2.99
A cheap Loire wine and it showed. JR noted "sweet Chenin Blanc but finishes short" and RY felt it was "not mellow enough for Christmas pud".

Not recommended
8. St Michael Asti Spumante, M. Canelli, Marks & Spencer £3.59
9. 1983 Nussdorfer Bischofskreuz Auslese Ortega, St Augustus, ASDA £2.79
10. St Michael Spierling Hock, Feist-Belmontsche Sekt, Marks & Spencer £2.25

Conclusions

Not a bad collection of wines with no real disappointments or nasties present. There was a sufficiently wide range of styles and enough great wines and inexpensive "star buys" to suit everyone's palate and purse.

The reds were disappointing though, especially considering that for most families the turkey and accompanying red wine will be the highlight of the meal. RY and JMQ were also disappointed that there were not more exceptional wines present: wines in the same league as, say, the Charles Denery champagne or the 1979 Beaune.

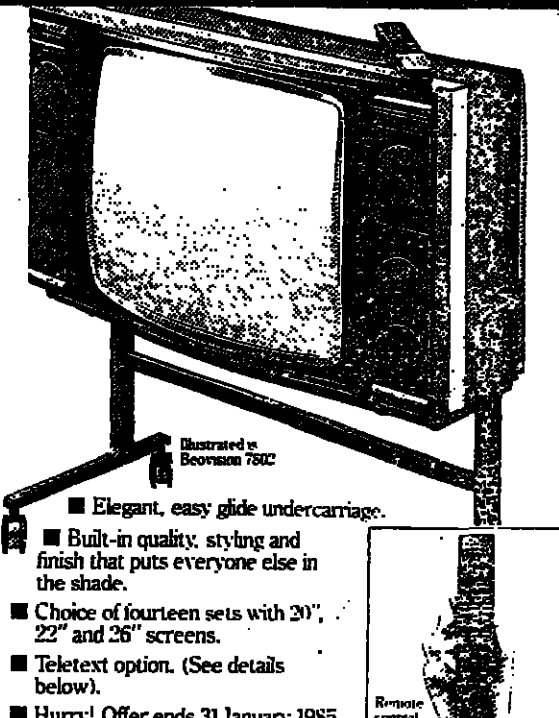
At this tasting Waitrose scooped the others with an impressive number of firsts, seconds, thirds and star buys. Sainsbury's came second, Marks & Spencer third, and ASDA and Tesco fourth and fifth respectively. Merry Christmas.

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TRAVEL 1

Ronald Faux treks across the high Andes and around the mean streets of Lima

Inca paths through condor country

"This view is totally breathtaking," my companion said, "which is probably why I can't breathe". He was a man of a pioneering spirit which his legs and lungs were attempting to keep up with. The air was thin up there as it whistled through the lofty gap of the Punta Union De Santa Cruz, a missing tooth in the jawbone of the Andes. The altitude at 15,440ft was higher than most peaks in the European Alps but we had taken our time to reach this high point of our trek.

There were a dozen or so in the group. One or two covetous looks had been cast at the horse carrying the tents, cooking pots and a coop of diminishing chickens. If everyone weakened the animal would resemble the arrival at Widdicombe of Jan Pearce's old mare. But even the horse seemed to be impressed as it rested its lean haunches at the top of the pass. The clouds cleared to give a fine view down the Quebrada Santa Cruz, a green gap between the high mountains of the Cordillera Blanca lit by brilliant shafts of sunlight.

We were an unusual mix for an expedition. Teachers, ship's engineer, nurse, oilman, jumbo jet captain, civil servant, mathematics professor and our own indomitable leader. For several days we had threaded our way across the Andes along valleys bright with lupins and alpine plants, seeing hardly a soul and nursing our blisters in peace. There can be few more therapeutic ways of passing time



Rest and relaxation: Women and children after the market has closed in Chachabero

than trekking along ancient paths in remote mountain regions. The pace is slow and energy-conserving and never seems to get anywhere until you realize that all the mountains have moved and are showing a different face.

The Punta Union trek is one of the most spectacular in the Andes because it is set among a dozen or more 19,500ft giants with summits sharpened by the winds to form a majestic backdrop throughout the trail. A bus ride that became a trial of strength between the springs and the rutted road took us to our first camp beside the Llanganuco lakes beneath the twin bastions of Huascarán (21,996ft) and Huandoy (20,358ft). On that first evening both summits blazed red with the last of the sunlight above the black cleft of the valley.

The first day was spent

acclimatizing to the altitude since there is little enjoyment to be had from high level trekking for anyone suffering a thumping headache or nausea, the classic early signs of altitude sickness. Then we climbed the winding trail up the Portachuelo pass, said to be the watershed from which the first drops of the Amazon spring. The pass would have been rather more impressive if the Peruvians had not driven a switch-backed vehicle road across it. Our old walking track occasionally vied with this interloper following its flat, rubber surface before plunging off into the undergrowth again.

The daily pattern began with tea served at the tent door by Conchita, a charming young Peruvian in voluminous poncho topped by a trilly hat. Breakfast was served in the communal mess tent: ample quantities of carbohydrates to

fuel the day's walking. The dismantled camp with the burros, porters and horse usually ended the day ahead of the trekkers who were left to admire the scenery. Our jumbo jet captain, scanning the skies, suddenly announced: "That's it, we can all go home now". He had spotted the first condor cruising above the valley upon its motionless, multi-fingered wings.

Peru is a country of raw contrasts. The mountains and their small valley communities form one world, Lima is quite another. The skies are permanently grey and rainless. There is an air of civil unease and the chaotic spread of shanty towns on the outskirts of the city add to the severe problems of unemployment. Theft is rife and tourists are the main targets. There was an ingenious attempt to separate our jumbo

captain from his Rolex Oyster watch. One man had stood next to him in the street smiling innocently, hands to full view. Suddenly his poncho developed a third hand, that of the accomplice thief who grabbed for the watch and gave the strap an expert twist. Normally it would have broken and the thief would have escaped but they had not reckoned on the reflexes of a man who pilots 747s. His arm yielded and went into the pocho in pursuit of the thief. With his other hand he thumped the accomplice. One thief shot, the other nursed a sore ear and the captain kept his watch. Others were less fortunate but with vigilance and simple precautions (a money belt is one of the best) Lima is probably no worse than other third world cities that lie en route to trekking areas.

The Sherpa tour was not all hard walking but also allowed a comprehensive look at the fascinating Inca history of Peru. It was an hour's flight from Lima to Cuzco, once the capital of the great Inca empire and the seat of the grossly baroque architecture of the Spanish conquistadors. Their cathedrals are in poor contrast to the spare, balanced lines of the Inca buildings that remain. There are several within easy reach of Cuzco and four hours away by train from the town are the ruins of Machu Picchu. Built as a natural fortress in about the 14th century, the white granite ruins straddle a



high ridge. There are temples once used by sun worshippers, sacrificial altars and sections of the chandel where, once the intellectual leaders of the Incas lived. They form the intact remains of an impressive and self-contained community. In all, the trekking added two-thirds on trek and one-third on sight-seeing. Sherpa insist that there are no age barriers on their tours and the main criterion is reasonably fit. Occasionally we split into two groups, one taking a better high route, the others a less strenuous path. We were well-led, well-fed and the company was excellent.



The "Highland Peru" trek organized by Sherpa Expeditions lasts 27 days and costs £1,648 inclusive of the flight to Cuzco. Insurance is an extra £23 and a trek pack with essential specialist clothing costs £20 to hire. There are other outdoor holidays in Peru offered from £1,180 for 20 days. Sherpa Expeditions, 131A Heston Road, Heston (Tel: 077 2171). Lufthansa German Airlines at 10 Old Bond Street, London W1 (Tel: 408 0822).

Sanlit summit: The mountains of the Cordillera Blanca

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Flexible flight plans for charter passengers



Few travelers realize that charter flights are available in two categories. First there are the very low-cost flights aimed at sunseeking holidaymakers on package tours - flights that tend to leave at unearthly hours and which have given their passengers bad memories of delayed departures in cramped and crowded aircraft. And secondly, there is a more upmarket series of "quasi-scheduled" charter flights. These cost more and only serve selected destinations, but they operate at convenient times week in, week out, throughout the year.

One of the problems currently facing the charter flight business is that of price. Following the price cutting by the major scheduled airlines

there is at times - especially out of season - little difference between the price of a charter or a scheduled flight. But the charter flights have greater flexibility. For example, you do not have to book two or three weeks ahead to get a budget fare. Most of the time you can book your flight - subject to space - up to departure time.

For some countries, particularly Italy, Switzerland and Germany, you can travel on an "open jaw" basis - flying out to one destination and back from another. This is an ideal method to use for touring holidays where you rent a car.

In many cases, you need not spend a Saturday night at your destination - ideal if you are the sort of person who likes a short break during the working week. Here is a round-up of the main flight programmes. Prices shown include airport taxes.

Switzerland
London's Falcon Travel continues to offer the widest choice of flights to Geneva and Zurich. Return fares to both destinations are

£80 until December 14, rising to £100 for the Christmas period lasting until December 31.

If you plan to rent a car, savings can be made with Falcon's Swiss car hire deal - a small Fiat Panda costs £15 a day with unlimited mileage. Weekend rates range from £35.50 to £54 depending on whether you rent from Friday to Sunday or Thursday to Monday.

Cheaper still is Swiss Air-tours. Until December 14 the agency charges £72 return rising to £88 from December 15 through to January 6. There are five flights a week to both Geneva and Zurich and if you plan to travel between Friday and Sunday the fare costs an extra £3 each way.

For £109, City by City Tours markets a regular series of Zurich-bound charters with Balair. More expensive than the other companies, but on the other hand Balair enjoys the reputation of being the "Swiss" of the charter business.

Germany
German Tourist Facilities (GTF) operates a year-round

series of flights to Düsseldorf, Frankfurt, Hamburg, Hanover and Stuttgart. Departures are on Friday and Monday. Additionally, there are four flights a week to Berlin and five to Munich. This winter to compete with the charter companies there are now offered by British Airways and Lufthansa, GTF has changed its evening "stopover" flights which must be bought 14 days ahead.

Examples of return fares from Gatwick (with the Super Jetfare in brackets) are: Düsseldorf, £69 (£49); Frankfurt £83 (£69); Hamburg £89 (£69); Hanover £89 (£69); Stuttgart £89 (£69); Berlin £99 (£88); Munich £99 (£77). Pegasus also offers flights to Munich. Two flights are operated every week and the return fare ranges from £99 to £129 depending on travel dates.

Austria
Charter flights to Vienna operated by Austrian Air Transport and British Airways are marketed by three different companies. City by City charges £134 for flights on Monday and Friday with Austrian Air Transport, while GTF's price is slightly cheaper at £132. For flights on Thursday and Sunday both GTF and Pegasus charge between £114 and £144.

Spain
Pegasus markets twice weekly flights from Gatwick to Madrid using British Airways and the Spanish airline Iberia. Prices range from £109 to £139. Iberian Service offers similar flights to Madrid but at cheaper fares of between £86 and £104. The same company flies to Barcelona for the same price.

Italy
Major destinations are covered by Pegasus's long standing

Tram time: Outside the Patisserie Sprig in Zurich

"Skybus" flights programme. There are normally two flights a week to many Italian cities from Gatwick/Luton. Flights are with Alitalia or Aeromediterranea, an Alitalia subsidiary.

Some return fares are: Bologna, Genoa, Milan (Linate), Pisa, Rome (Fiumicino) and Venice (Marco Polo) from £104 to £134; Milan (Malpensa) £99 to £129; Naples and Rome £109 to £139. This winter the company is marketing two fixed-date excursion deals. There is the Rome Express costing £99 (fly out on Monday night, return two days later) while the Milan Express features flights out on Monday night and back the following Friday for £89.

For the first time Pegasus is offering special fly/drive rates with Avis. To any destination the cost for three days is £179 per person when two travel together and £233 for a single traveller. Other durations are available at extra cost. Rates include the flights and a small car.

Ski specials
"Snowjet" charters are operated by Falcon to Geneva, Zurich, Chambéry, Munich and Toulouse. All flights (except those from Glasgow/Manchester to Geneva) depart from Gatwick. The programme starts on December 22. Fares in December - for a minimum stay away of seven days - to Geneva range from £100 to £140, Zurich and Chambéry £100, Munich £105 and Toulouse £102. Fares fall in January before rising again during February/March. Snowjet also offers coach transfers to the main ski resorts from Geneva/Gatwick/Zurich. Also from Chambéry there are air transfers to Morbier and Courmayeur at £35 return. Car hire starts at £83.

Alex McWhirter

Agents: Falcon 01-221 0088; Swiss Airports 01-638 6751; GTF 01-229 2474; Pegasus 01-370 6851; City by City 01-379 7885; Iberian Service 01-278 8094. Alex McWhirter is Travel Editor of Business Traveller.

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York Minster Stained Glass Calendar Canterbury Cathedral Stained Glass Calendar John Piper Stained Glass Calendar

These 1985 boxed calendars make unique gifts. Each comprises 7 beautiful large-format colour transparency reproductions of notable medieval or contemporary stained glass. Descriptive notes included. Sizes: Piper - 12"x19", York or Canterbury - 9"x16".

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Calendar prices: Piper £10.00, York or Canterbury £8.00. Cards: Piper £1.50, York or Canterbury £1.00. Greeting cards: Piper £1.50, York or Canterbury £1.00. Calendars also on offer: John Piper - Tate Gallery, Canterbury - Cathedral Shop, York - Minster Shop (* profit from direct sales of York calendar, donated to Minster Fund).

Complete in 2 col, plastic wallet. Send cheque with order to: PRINT-A-GIFT, 120-131 Chislehurst Road, London W3 0JH 4767 (Tel. 1999). Postage free in UK. Personal call welcome.

PERSONALISED PENCILS

High quality British made pencils (made in the UK) with your name or initials engraved in gold or silver. 12 pencils for £1.50. 24 pencils for £2.50. 36 pencils for £3.50. 48 pencils for £4.50. 60 pencils for £5.50. 72 pencils for £6.50. 84 pencils for £7.50. 96 pencils for £8.50. 108 pencils for £9.50. 120 pencils for £10.50. 132 pencils for £11.50. 144 pencils for £12.50. 156 pencils for £13.50. 168 pencils for £14.50. 180 pencils for £15.50. 192 pencils for £16.50. 204 pencils for £17.50. 216 pencils for £18.50. 228 pencils for £19.50. 240 pencils for £20.50. 252 pencils for £21.50. 264 pencils for £22.50. 276 pencils for £23.50. 288 pencils for £24.50. 300 pencils for £25.50. 312 pencils for £26.50. 324 pencils for £27.50. 336 pencils for £28.50. 348 pencils for £29.50. 360 pencils for £30.50. 372 pencils for £31.50. 384 pencils for £32.50. 396 pencils for £33.50. 408 pencils for £34.50. 420 pencils for £35.50. 432 pencils for £36.50. 444 pencils for £37.50. 456 pencils for £38.50. 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6060 pencils

VALUES

EATING OUT

An alphabet of gracious giving

Beryl Downing with some off-beat ideas for tailor-made presents

Acquisitive artlovers
Would appreciate season's greetings in the form of a painting. Charlotte Campbell-Davys shows original contemporary works in the setting of her own house so that you can see how they would look at home. More than 250 paintings in oil, acrylics, charcoal, pastel, pen and watercolour - all modestly priced between £25 and £200 - can be seen at 37 Tuford Street, London SW1 (01-222 6929). Felice Fanciers will like the "Cats Big and Small" exhibition of paintings, drawings and original prints at Graffiti, 30 James Street, London, W1 (01-486 7647). Included are comic cats by

bridge, 60 Beauchamp Place, London SW3 (589 7939).

Fitness freaks
Can tell whether they are overdoing it by using a digital pulse monitor - a safe maximum training pulse rate is 180 minus your age and you just press the bar of this 4in x 2 1/2in hand-held gadget to see your rate accurately displayed. The Pulse Time costs £46.20 from John Bell & Croydon, 54 Wigmore Street, London W1 or with £1.75 p&p from Andrew Stephens Co, Medical Electronics, 41 Dickson Road, Blackpool (0253 31043).

Gallery gazers
Should set their sights on the exhibition of kelims collected by Alastair Hull on his journeys to Afghanistan and Central Asia. The rugs are 10 and 160 years old, priced from £25 to £750 and range from bathmat size to 30 square metres. The exhibition is at The Farnham Maltings, Bridge Square, Farnham, Surrey from December 3 to 9.

Henry Henry
Come home with the milk in a pure silk white evening scarf, £17.95 from Moss Bros, Bedford Street, London WC2 (01-240 4567) and 21 Lime Street, London EC3 (01-626 4247).

Indecisive imbibers
Can't make up their minds whether to have coffee or tea. The Salton Bistro with two independent tanks and a tea filter facility allows them to make tea in one pot and coffee in the other at the same time. Used just for coffee it makes 16 standard cups - double the quantity provided by the usual filter machines - and keeps it really hot. Price £29.95 at Harrods or, plus £1.95 p & p, from Barleytown Marketing, 10 Barleytown passage, Chiswick, London W4 (01-994 6477).

Blissing beauties
Add just the right touch of colour with Joan Price's brush kit. It includes a big brush for rouge, square top one for cover-up cream, a small square one and pointed one for eyes, a fine brush and screw top handbag version from Joan Price's Face Place, 33 Cadogan Street, London SW3 (01-589 9062) and 31 Connaught Street, London W2 (01-723 6671), £13.95 (50p p&p).

Christmas cooks
Who have been dilatory enough to leave making their puddings and cakes until now might like a traditional round mould £5.95 and a square cake tin with adjustable sides which gives a variety of sizes on one base (£7.95). Made in aluminium alloy by Alan Silverwood Holloware and available from Boots Cookshops.

Doll devices
Are always entranced by classic clowns. Give a hand-made clown puppet (shown right) to hang on a wall. In traditional black and white or multi-coloured striped non-crushable fabric £17.95, plus £1.50 p&p from the designer/maker Julia Froggatt, 21 Rocks Lane, London SW13 (01-878 3430, evenings). Other fabrics - velvet, gold lamé, whatever you wish - can be used to order.

Elegant executives
Create the right impression in a pure silk shirt or blouse from the shop with the largest selection of colours anywhere - 54 in plain silk, 9 in spun silk, 28 in crepe de chine. Men's classic shirts, sizes 14 1/2 to 17 1/2 collar, are from £29.95, pleated dress shirts from £39.95, mono-grammed single initial £6. Women's styles, sizes 8 to 18, include a shirt with separate cravat at £36.95 in spun silk, £49.95 in crepe de chine, a silk frilled front blouse in spun silk £44.95, collarless shirt from £24.95. Stock designs can be made to measure for £14 extra. Brochure available from Val-



Jewellery junkies
Get their fix at the Designer Jewellers Group exhibition of modern jewellery at the Barbican Centre, level 5 foyer where 14 designer makers are display-



Trompe-l'oeil: Decorative hibiscus tree, 4ft high with orange/red and cream/white flowers in washable polyester silk, designed for The Times by Belle Fleur, £69; planted in a terracotta pot, £26.89 from the Craftsman Pottery shop. See letters L and P.

ing their wares. Look at Clive Cook's silver thimbles like medieval monarchs (£34 each) and Abigail Fleissig's electro-formed silver-on-lapis butterfly bow necklaces (£92). Open Mon-Fri 11am-3pm and 5-8pm, Sat 11am-8pm, Sun noon-8pm until December 23.

Nimble needlewomen
Will appreciate a handmade wooden box with sliding lid containing 15 transparent plastic templates for patchwork. The pieces are all interrelated and can be used to make six traditional patterns. Instructions included. Price £7.50 (£1.40 p&p) from Habibia, 126 Keighley Road, Skipton, North Yorkshire (0756 60132).

Keyboard kids
Will find everything they want to know in *The Synthesizer and Electronic Keyboard Handbook* by David Crombie (Dorling Kindersley, £9.95), a complete guide to keyboard instruments with superb step-by-step illustrations showing playing techniques, amplification and recording. From W. H. Smith to order, for other stockists telephone 01-836 2006.

Lapsed lovers
Might restore themselves to favour with a bouquet of seasonal flowers sent by first-class letter post to arrive during the week before Christmas. Price £7 from Chesswood Postal Flowers, Chesswood Nurseries, Thakeham, Pulborough, West Sussex (07983 2340). Or give an everlasting posy, plant or tree made in fabric grafted on to dried wood trunks from £10.50 to £350 or a single fabric rosebud or carnation 80p from Belle Fleur, 15 Montpelier Street, London SW-7 (01-589 2734).

Manic masterminds
Know all the answers. When is Superman's birthday? What is a sea lemon? Which prophet came from the village of Anathoth? There are just three

of the 1,113 questions in *The Ultimate Trivia Quiz Game Book* (Penguin £4.95) which test the skill of a scholar and the patience of a saint. From Penguin bookshops and W. H. Smith.

Ostrange oddballs
Might benefit from a taste of their own medicine. *Between the Eyes* (Jonathan Cape £9.95 paperback, £15 hardback) is a beautiful, weird, disturbing collection of Ralph Steadman's cartoons with his own notes on where he was and how he felt at the time he drew them. From Selfridges and Hatchards in London and branches of W. H. Smith.

Potty people
Go for handmade terracotta planters, 10 1/2 in diameter, 13in high, £26.89 and troughs, 13in x 6 1/2 in x 6 in deep £16.12, both from the Craftsman Pottery shop, William Blake House, Marshall Street, London W1 (01-437 7605).

Quintessential quaffers
Can balance their dinner party menus perfectly with Peter Dominic's computerised VINO File. Programmed with 220 dishes from light starters to heavy puddings, it gives two or three suggestions to drink with each. Only for those with a Sinclair Spectrum computer, it costs £4.95 including postage. From Peter Dominic, Winter House, Riverway, Harlow, Essex (0279 26801).

Restless readers
Can be helped to see in the dark with an Itty Bitty Booklight by Pifco. It clips to the back of a book has its own battery pack or operates from the mains and costs £18.95 including postage from Electronic World, Failsforth, Manchester (061-681 8321). Also Selfridges lighting department or Harvey Nichols gift department in London.

Safer sailors
Go aboard for a well-designed VHF receiver and optional telephone handset. It has 56 channels, dual watch, channel 16 and M, override, digital display and panel speaker, measures 8 1/4 in x 1 1/2 in x 3 in and costs £225. A sea searcher magnet to recover weights up to 64kg could be handy, too at £10.95. Both from Captain O. M. Watts, 45 Albermarle Street, London W1 (01-228 7655).

Telephone tappers
Can demystify the STD system with *The Dialling Code Decoder*, a manual which identifies every British exchange. So if a couple at a Hampstead party mention a number beginning 0688 Londoners will now know not to bother asking them round for drinks. They live in Tobermory. Price £3.50 from Telecommunications Press, 9 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1 (01-222 4333).

Unscrupulous usurers
Might go legit if someone helps them to save money instead of leading it. *The Allied Hambro Tax Guide* by Walter Sinclair (Longman, £10.95) covers the seven ages of tax planning from childhood to retirement and offers plenty of tax saving hints. From W. H. Smith or, with £1.25 p & p, from Longman Professional, 21/27 Lamb's Conduit Street, London WC1 (01-242 2548).

Video viewers
Will have a sporting attitude to life with one of Quadrant Video's cassettes. Their collection includes films on angling, golf, sailing, snooker, tennis, winter sports at prices ranging from £9.99 to £27.50. Catalogue and order forms from Quadrant Video, Surrey House, Throley Way, Sutton, Surrey (01-643 8040).

Wary watercolourists
And other amateur artists will improve their technique with *How to Master the Art by Jeffrey Camp* - quite the most helpful guide to drawing techniques. Price £7.50 from Hatchards, Piccadilly, London W1 and branches of W. H. Smith; for other stockists telephone 01-836 2006.

Xmas xenophobes
Might overcome their fears by ordering a Christmas cake decorated like a Union Jack in red, white and blue holly, £7.95, from Duff & Trotter, who will make cakes to fit any strange fancy (01-627 2770). For less chauvinist tastes, they have an alternative to the Christmas hamper this year - a wok filled with the special ingredients you might need if you have been inspired by Ken Hom's television Chinese cookery. From Duff & Trotter's shops, 47 Bow Lane, London EC4; 100 Portland Road, W11; and 13-15 Leadenhall Market, EC3.

Yuppy youngsters
Feel even more youthful, upwardly mobile and professional in a James Meade striped shirt - Jermyn Street style at £25.50 and with a wide range of sleeve lengths. Team it with oval silver cufflinks £60 or a gold tie pin £77.50 and an Albert foil chain £235 designed by the Chelsea Goldsmiths and Silversmiths Company to complement the shirt. All from James Meade Shirts, Freeport, London SW9 8ER (01-274 3100).

Zoo zealots
Can adopt an animal through a scheme run by London Zoo. Small animals like hamsters, lizards or fruit bats cost £10 a year, wallabies £30, cuddly brown bears £1,500 (you can have a £30 share in the more expensive animals). The money goes towards care and upkeep. "Parents" receive a certificate of adoption, a free ticket to the zoo and their names displayed on a plaque. Details from Caroline Jeann, Adopt an Animal, London Zoo, Regent's Park, London NW1 (01-723 3333). Whipsnade have a similar scheme (0582 872171).

Escape routes for cooks tired of Christmas

For most of us, Christmas is a time for a family gathering in the home, but an increasing number of people, particularly those anticipating a long stint in the kitchen, may be looking for last-minute alternatives...

The notion of spending Christmas in a hotel or of dining out on Christmas Day itself has become extremely popular over the past few years. This may have something to do with cooks wishing to escape the

will be just as lively, and I can't imagine anywhere more boisterous than the Norbreck Castle Hotel in Blackpool, which is offering a four-night, full-board package at £189 per adult (£107 for children aged 5-14, free for under fours). A family-orientated deal includes film shows, discos and teddy bear's tea-party for the children and water-sports (in the indoor pool, not the Irish Sea), music hall and cabaret for adults.

If the Christmas options have narrowed too much in England, the Scottish predilection for New Year celebrations means that there are more vacancies to be found north of the border. The North British Hotel is ideally placed in Edinburgh's Princes Street for touring the Scottish capital. A three-day stay, beginning on Christmas Eve, costs £135 and embraces traditional meals, dancing, carols and visits from McSant.

For sea-breezes and the opportunity for a high-class round of golf, the Marine Hotel, overlooking the championship course at Troon, has a three day programme for £120, including a dinner-dance, carols, pantomime and a candlelit ball.

Finally, for those who suffer at the thought of the goodwill season, the enterprising Nelson Hotel in Norwich is offering a "Fed Up With Christmas" package. Three days (Dec 28-30 inclusive) of spartan living, saunas and mulled wine included, for just £33, bed and breakfast. Book in the name of Scrooge...

Stan Hey



The Ritz, Piccadilly, London W1 (01-493 8181); Belgrave-Sheraton, 20 Chesham Place, London SW1 (01-235 8050); Mayfair Holiday Inn, Buryley Street, London W1 (01-493 8282); Keats, 3 Downshire Hill, London NW3 (01-435 3544); Norbreck Castle Hotel, Queens Promenade, Blackpool (0253 52341); Marine Hotel, Troon, Ayrshire (0292 31444); Nelson Hotel, Prince of Wales Road, Norwich (0603 28612).



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Blandy's 10 year old Malmsey, aged and matured for at least 10 years in oak casks, the Grand Final to a perfect meal - rich and aromatic, full in flavour with a delightfully smooth and long finish. Today Madeira is the only wine in the world to be bottled for many months, in special heating rooms, thus developing its unique burnt, dry taste.

Madiera will continue to mature in cask or bottle almost endlessly, and unlike other wine even after deacidating will remain in perfect condition for weeks. Blandy's other classic Madeiras are: Duke of Sussex Sercial. The perfect, light aperitif, and delicious served chilled. Duke of Cambridge Verdelho. Medium dry, slightly richer and softer than Sercial. Duke of Cumberland Bual. A splendid burnt and nutty taste. Perfect as an alternative to Port. Duke of Clarence Malmsey. Luscious and very full bodied. BLANDY'S CLASSIC MADEIRAS SINCE 1811.

Available from most quality wine merchants, or for further information contact UK Agents: Hedges & Butler Ltd., 183 Regent Street, London W1. Tel: 01-880 7133.

Memorable messengers with witty best wishes

If your idea of personal embarrassment is to be sung a song with pertinent lyrics on some special occasion by anyone from Father Christmas to a girl wearing a big red smile and very little else, you are a likely victim for a singing telegram.

Popular in the United States for more than 40 years, singing telegrams did not get off the ground here until 1979, when two English girls, Roz Ostry and Kara Noble, launched their own companies, Sendasong and Songbirds.

Now they have 30 to 40 people working for them - from resting showbusiness professionals to amateurs with a bit of nerve needing extra cash. The answer to the continuing demand must be the inventiveness of some of the acts. Apart from dressing up and singing, some of the companies provide quite a show, involving a good deal of research and ingenuity.

Telegrams UK will do almost anything. Their most popular request is the SAS raid, which

involves four men bursting into a room wearing balaclavas, carrying guns and smoke bombs.

The company to extend the business to its furthest limits is Franksters, which has staged armed robberies, sent factory inspectors to close down buildings, and organized waiters that don't quite do what they should.

One of their cleverest pranks Ivor Dembinga, their founder, told me, was when they sent a salesman to sell X-ray contact lenses to two company directors. "Naturally they didn't believe a word, until the salesman described in detail the colour and style of their underwear. He had rung up the two wives earlier that morning who divulged the necessary information."

Some companies will do full strips, others consider that going too far. Most do kisso-

grams, nuns, nurses, tarzans or supermen, and if you have an original idea they will do it. Mary Wilson

For companies in the London area (code 01-) telephones: Sendasong 089 7277 Songbirds: 288 8050 Telegrams UK: 468 0505 Franksters: 348 7598 All Male Telegram Co: 629 3912 Tantalising Telegram Co: 788 7868 Glam Grams: 670 2627 Ritz Grams: 748 2013

Krazy Capers: 558 4355 Standard Telegrams: 839 3104 Roly Poly Grams: 670 9509 Kisses International: 629 8529 Kissagram: 288 9531 Allgrams: 348 2077 Many of the companies will send a "telegram" all over the country. Charges are from £18 upwards - average price £25.

Rioja

Roast Beef

Rioja and Roast Beef might have been made for each other. Just the thought alerts the taste buds. Even more so if you imagine the magical taste of rich and fruity red Rioja wines. Matured in oak, they are rather special. Explore the wonderful wines of Rioja and find a quality and value that is unequalled.

The little stamp which appears on every bottle of Rioja is the guarantee of quality.

Look for the little stamp.

The hallmark of excellence.

For further information please contact The Rioja Wine Information Centre, Union de España, 23 Manchester Square, London W1. Tel: 01-628 6140.

With puddings a sweet but subtle wine is indicated.

The great British pudding can be a great British groan without suitable liquid assistance.

So, with good dessert wines costing an upper and lower limb, how do you ease your guests through this delightful but challenging course?

Simply bring out a bottle of Osbourne Oloroso Sherry. Its ravishing bouquet and golden glow rekindle jaded appetites.

Whilst its subtly sweet flavour helps the gateaux down like no other wine.

Oloroso and 10RF Oloroso are just two in a range of rare sherries developed by Osbourne over 212 years.

Dust one off at your next dinner party.

FAMILY LIFE

Haunting world of the sea's hunted giants

If a quotation were needed to tempt young visitors into the exhibition which opens next Thursday at the Natural History Museum, I can think of none more appropriate than Matthew Arnold's flesh-tingling call to "Come, dear children, let us away: Down and away below salting by. Sail and sail with unsatyr eye. Round the world for ever and ever." Appropriate because the exhibition will leave visitors in no doubt that the future for many whales is far from certain. No grandiloquent calls to conserve and protect the mightiest of all marine mammals can be seen or heard, but the message is clear.

The Whale Hall at the museum was built in the 1930s and its major exhibits are the 92ft-long model of a great blue whale, constructed like a clinker-built ship and clad with plaster of Paris, and the actual skeletons of such a whale, the longest extending 82ft from skull to tail. The new, permanent exhibition has been greatly augmented, and promises to be one of the best in the museum.

The first thing you see as you enter the gallery is still the giant model of the blue whale (re-painted) and the skeletons. Above and to the left, 19 models of different species of whale, from narwhal, killer and beluga to humpback, right and grey hang suspended in a shoal-like formation. Made of glass fibre, they have been cast and painted to look as realistic as possible.

Beneath the suspended models the various types of whale are described with explanations of their different shapes and colourations, whether for identification by other members of the school for example, or disguises while the whale hunts.

Working clockwise round the gallery, the first section you encounter describes the two groups of cetacean whales - baleen and toothed - and their feeding habits, each of which is nicely illustrated by comparing a trawling net (baleen) and a gin trap (toothed). Further speci-

mens, models and a computer game expand the differences.

The next section shows how the whales that live in the oceans today have adapted to a marine life from their original land-based habitat (you can see the "residual limb-buds" in a model of a cetacean foetus) and contains a reconstruction of a large fox-like creature, Mesonyx which according to experts is the whale's nearest ancestor, unlikely candidate though he looks.

Particularly fascinating are explanations of how whales and their relatives use sound and echo - for communication, directional purposes, and hunting quarry - using models, graphics and "hands on" exhibits, of which the simplest but most impressive is a device which shows why whales don't have ear flaps and how they - and we - can "hear" through their foreheads. Recordings of whale sounds, in all their diversity, provide an accompaniment.

Breathing and diving follow, with models that show how cetaceans are superbly adapted to their marine existence. Not surprisingly, experts still remain largely in the dark about how whales mate and breed, but an excellent short film shows glimpses of whales courting and possibly mating and includes a charming sequence in which male humpbacks "sing" in unison, like an aquatic male voice choir, to attract the females. The commentary concludes that for many whales, courtship comprises three main elements: carcasses, visual displays and singing, which caused a passing technician to mutter "unlike homo-sapiens".

There is a widespread belief that whales and dolphins are extremely intelligent animals, substantiated by various tests which demonstrate their ability to "learn" certain human-imposed skills, even basic grammatical rules. But the strength of this section for me was that it posed many questions and concluded that there remain

vast areas about which we still understand nothing.

The last part of the exhibition I found the most interesting - and I have to say, disturbing: apart from an eight-minute film on stranding that brought a jump to the throat, the final section concentrates on the blue whale of Antarctica, an endangered species. According to Brian Bath, a member of the museum's staff involved with mounting the exhibition, some form of protection now is a matter of life and death to these and several other species, such as the bowhead and the black right whale.

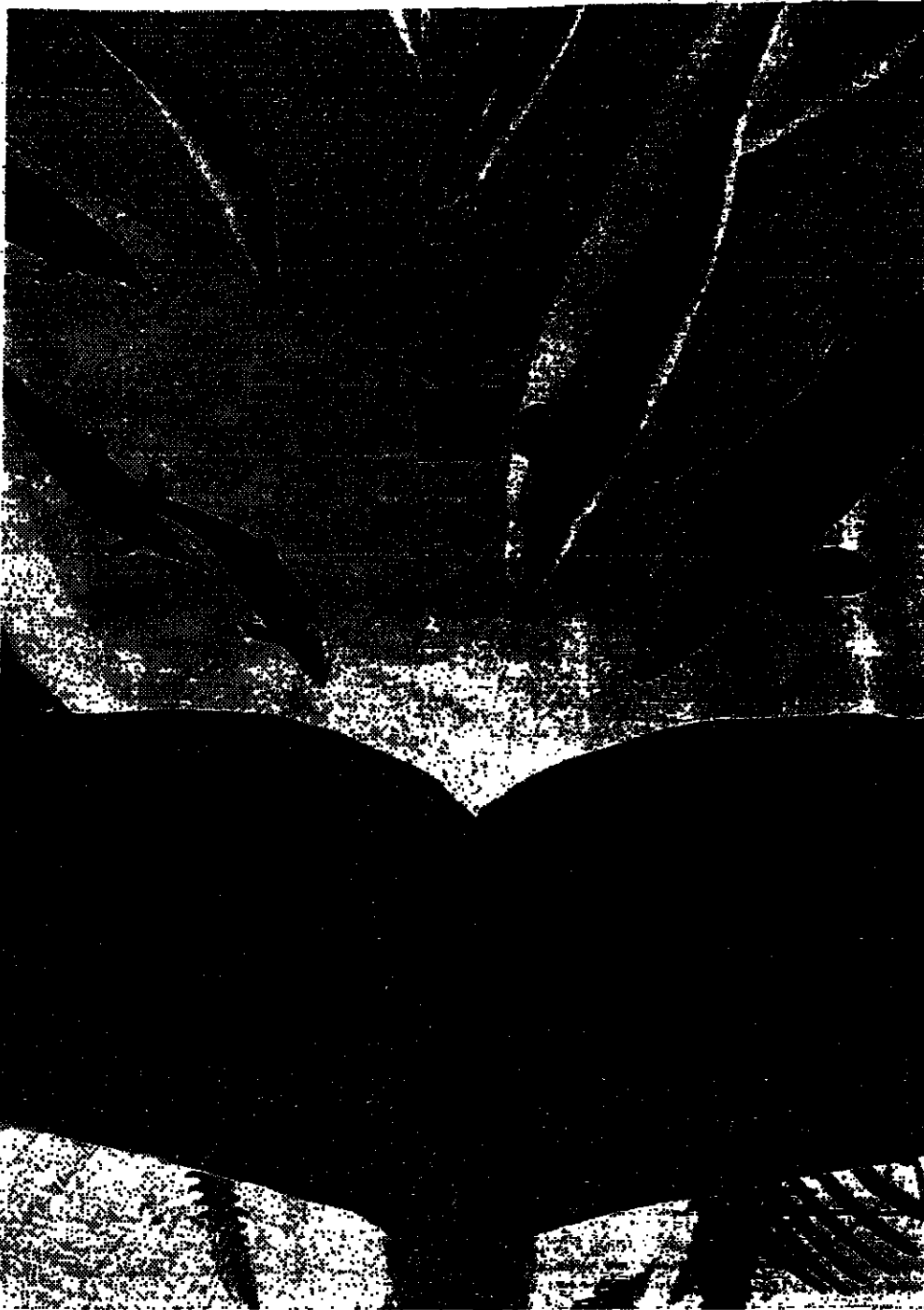
Centuries of hunting have resulted in decimated populations, and there is a very real danger that many species will become extinct. Possible reasons are that in a very small population a male and female might not meet each other very often; or there may be social reasons - such as that a species needs to have a sufficiently big population before it chooses to reproduce itself.

The International Whaling Commission has called for a 10-year moratorium to begin in 1986 (claimed by some to be "another two years too late") on hunting the blue whale, to give it a chance to multiply. Many experts believe that is a minimum restraint, and that "20 or 30 years may not be enough".

Having visited the exhibition, you do not have to be an active member of Greenpeace to conclude that whales and their relatives are noble creatures, worthy of our respect. We have pursued them for centuries for their oil, for their flesh, even their skin; we made corsets from their baleen, scrimshaw with their teeth, even exploited a by-product of their gut (ambergis) to make exotic scents. But as Brian Bath said, "there are substitutes for everything".

Judy Froshaug

Whales and their relatives opens at the Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London, SW7 (SW8 5BN) on Thurs. Mon-Sat, 10am-6pm, Sun 2.30pm-6pm. Free.



Whale of a time: Marine mammals in display formation at the Natural History Museum

IN THE GARDEN

A slice of life from well ripened wood

Raising one's own plants is one of the most satisfying aspects of gardening. Creating a new plant always gives pleasure, whether you are a beginner or have been a professional for all your working life.

Few methods of propagation need much equipment; with hard wood cuttings all we need are the plants, (or pieces of the plant), and a part of the garden. It may not always be as easy as it sounds, but if the materials are right there should be few disappointments. However, this method of propagation is not suitable for all plants since some will never form roots from vegetative shoots.

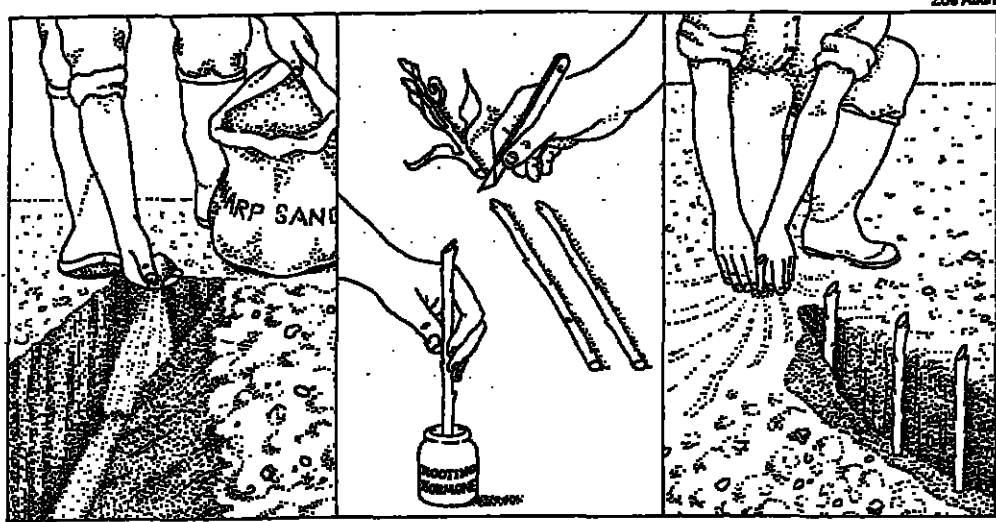
As usual, it is the preparation which matters: it is no use selecting the shoots, planting them out in the garden and expecting them to root. Soil conditions have got to be right. It is now the right time of year to select a site which is in good condition - which has been well looked after and has been charged with manure or organic matter on a regular basis over a number of years. Parts of the garden which were mowed for a crop last year would be suitable; fresh manure is not ideal for rooting.

Think ahead and prepare the site in the spring or early summer of the year you intend to begin. In this case you can add well rotted farmyard manure to the bottom spit and plant a short-term crop on this piece of ground in the summer.

The ground will then be ready to receive the cuttings.

Heavy soil can be improved by the addition of sand or well rotted organic matter; it is important that there is both moisture holding capacity and also that surplus water drains away quickly. Light soils can be improved by adding organic matter, which ideally should be of peat, bark or leaf mould, which has been well rotted.

Hard wood cuttings can be taken any time between October and March, when the plants are dormant. Deciduous plants are propagated by this method, but it is not suitable for evergreens. Prepare the ground now: dig it one spit deep; push the spade into the ground to the full depth of the blade and turn it over. The site selected should be in a sheltered part of the garden, not shaded by trees or buildings, and well drained.



Steps to success: Sprinkle the sharp sand in the trench; remove soft tips and dip the base of each shoot into rooting powder; insert in the sand and firm in the plants.

Peg out a straight line and then, using a spade, make a V trench with the back line of the V upright. The trench should not be less than 6in deep and can be up to 10in deep depending on the type of plant. In the bottom of the trench, place about 2in of sharp sand, which will help to get rid of excess moisture and assist the formation of roots. It is now ready for the cuttings. (Do not dig the trench and then leave it exposed to the elements; pre-

pare the trench at the time you are taking the cuttings.) The propagating material selected from the plants should be firm and well-ripened. Sometimes the tips of the cuttings are soft and green; these should be cut back to sound, well-ripened wood.

The length of the cutting will vary according to the type of plant, and will be from 6-12in to 12-15in long. The vigour of the plant and the type of growth determines the length. The

stronger it is, the longer the cutting. Always use a sharp knife; where necessary, trim the cutting directly beneath a node except those which are taken with a heel - a small sliver of old wood which is pulled off the parent branch; heels should be trimmed to tidy loose ends and to leave a clean cut.

Cuttings are inserted into the prepared trench leaving them at an angle.

only a small part of the shoot above ground level, with the end of the cutting in the sandy layer at the base. Always use a hormone rooting powder designed for hard wood plants as this gives better results.

Once in position, firm in well by packing down the soil from the other side of the trench; this is very important. It is also important to firm in cuttings if frost has loosened them in the soil.

There are a great many plants

Birds' banquet

Ilex Aquifolium, the common holly, is familiar to most people through its extensive use as a Christmas decoration. Some of the earliest holly in parts and gardens was planted in Victorian times, when the holly was very popular. It is one of the best berrying shrubs, which may sometimes reach the height of a small tree. There are a number of good forms which will enhance a garden. The common holly has very dark green leaves. If grown in dense shade, it will not fruit well and will become straggly. It has a reasonable amount of light and the soil is in good condition, it will grow very well. It requires little, if any, pruning and can easily be transplanted in the autumn or late spring if the plant is not too big.

This year there are masses of berries on the holly, but contrary to the old wives' tale, this does not indicate a hard winter ahead, but rather that the weather and conditions were good when the plants were in flower. Birds love all types of holly berry and some years the bushes are stripped bare by Christmas. *Ilex x alticola* Golden King is the best variegated holly and is female, with purple stems. *I. x alticola* Golden Queen is, as its name suggests, golden but does not produce fruit. *I. x alticola* variegata has unusual, having small leaves, but lots of berries. Plants cost about £7 each from Bridgwater Nurseries, Cheshire or Notcutts, Suffolk.

Ashley Stephenson

BRIDGE

Poland's persistence pays off

Teams from 54 countries travelled to Seattle in the United States to contest the Open Series of the seventh World Team Olympiad. Even though the entry was a little smaller than at Valkenburg in 1980, it is a healthy reflection of the world-wide interest in the game.

The qualifiers who emerged successfully from the round robin were, with the possible exception of Austria and Pakistan, predictable. But Pakistan has become an "expected" surprise in recent years and, as in the past, finished strongly to deprive Norway and Sweden of a place in the final stages.

Indonesia, impressive winners of the 1983 Far Eastern Championships, won Group B, with Italy and the US coasting into second and third places. In Group A, Austria, Poland, Denmark and France drew some way clear of India in fifth place. The Indians may be disappointed, but theirs was nevertheless a fine performance.

The 64 board quarter finals provided some bombshells. France routed Indonesia by 244-95 IMPs, and Poland proved too strong for Pakistan. Italy, after a bad second quarter, failed to recover, and finally lost to Denmark by 132-117. But the sensation was Austria's victory over the US. With 16 boards to play and 23 points behind, they rallied to beat the favourites by 128-121. Few would dispute the present American supremacy in world bridge, but the US has still to win the Open Series of the World Team Olympiad.

In the semi-finals, France established an early lead over Denmark, and resisted a desperate counter-attack in the final quarter, to win by 164 IMPs to 149. But the real drama was Poland's recovery to snatch victory from Austria on the last board.

The '96 board final was surprisingly one-sided. At the halfway stage, Poland had established the virtually unassailable lead of 111 IMPs. Despite a flicker of resistance from France, current holders of the title, Poland held on tenaciously to win by 236-156.

Thus Poland joins the select company of Italy (three times winners), France (twice) and Brazil, as the only countries to win the coveted title.

The winning team was Tomasz Przybura, Krzysztof Martens, Piotr Garrys, Henryk Wolny, Jacek Romanski and Piotr Tuszynski, with Marian Frankiel as non-playing captain. Some of these names are new to me, but apparently not to one shrewd spectator who backed his judgment at 8/1 before the start of play. Of course, the players themselves, like jockeys, are not allowed to bet.

On board 39 of the quarter-final match between the US and Austria, Goldman and Soloway bid an excellent vulnerable Grand Slam. The Austrians stopped in six, and the Americans lead crept into the twenties.

This was board 40. Quarter Final, US v Austria. Love all, Dealer East.

♠ A Q 3 2	♥ K 8 7 6 5	♦ K 9 8 7 6	♣ A Q 9 8 4
♠ K 4 3 2	♥ A 10 9 8	♦ A 10 9 8	♣ K 10 9 8
♠ 10 9 8 7	♥ 7 6 5 4	♦ 7 6 5 4	♣ 7 6 5 4
♠ 6 5 4 3	♥ 4 3 2	♦ 4 3 2	♣ 4 3 2

In the closed room Wolff (South) attempted the unsalubrious contract of three no trumps, on the lead of the C1. The contract required more than its fair share of luck and received less. Wolff made 7 tricks, 100 to Austria.

This was the bidding in the open room:

W	N	E	S
Soloway	Fuck	Goldman	Terraneo
1♣	1♠	1♠	1♠
4♠	4♠	4♠	4♠
6♠	6♠	6♠	6♠
7♠	7♠	7♠	7♠

Terraneo and Fuck took the obvious six tricks and a penalty of 500. If I were asked to assess the blame for the American disaster, I would suggest that Goldman's bid of two clubs opposite a partner who has passed seems more culpable than Soloway's attempt to juggle the opposition into the wrong spot.

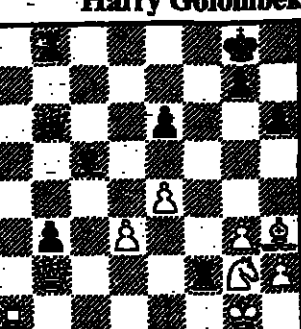
Apart from the result, the main talking point at the World Olympiad was provided by

systems, in particular the proliferation of strong pass systems. Opinions were sharply divided on the desirability of these new methods. The consensus of journalists and leading players was that, subject to a full and proper disclosure, any system should be permitted at the World Olympiad or the Bermuda Bowl. But in Paris

contests or the Rosenblum Cup the view was that they should not because opponents have insufficient time to compose an effective defence. Bobby Goldman, a former World Champion, even suggested that there should be a World Championship where the conventions were restricted to Stayman and Blackwood. Good Heavens, that would mean a return to playing bridge.

Jeremy Flint

Harry Golombek



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CHESS

Why stunted minds make weak moves

Worthy parents of children who excel at chess often ask me how their offspring can improve their game, or what books on openings they should study. I reply to both questions guardedly not only because I am the author of two introductory books on chess, but also because I am firmly convinced that there is too much emphasis laid on openings nowadays.

I have just received two books for review that illustrate my dilemma, massive tomes which I can scarcely lift except with both hands: two volumes of *New in Chess* edited by Alexander Matanovic (Batsford, £27) which classify the openings in the same style as *Informator* with the same brief notes. Their aim is to provide the reader with as full a reference book as possible and since the work seems to have been done thoroughly I have no doubt that the books will be widely read.

Nevertheless I object to this method of compiling a book, which has become increasingly popular of late. No attempt is made to add to the reader's grasp of the game or indeed to suggest new and/or better lines of play. I can think of no better way of helping young enthusiasts from increasing their understanding of chess.

How different it was when I was a boy. Then books or articles on the openings were written by such able and interesting writers as Reti, Nimzowitsch, Spielmann and Rubinstein. Our present-day writers would do well to emulate their predecessors and at least give us some original analysis.

The consequences of the current trend are not difficult to see. With too much emphasis on memory, the chess world is full of young players whose imagination has been stunted.

Consider the following game which was played in a recent county club match. My opponent was a young player in his early twenties, and as the game proceeded and he began to realize we were on somewhat equal terms, his confidence diminished and his moves became feeble.

White: D. J. Turner (Slough); Black: H. Golombek (Chesham and Amersham). Flank attack.

1 ♠-N5	2 ♠-N5	3 ♠-N5	4 ♠-N5
5 ♠-N5	6 ♠-N5	7 ♠-N5	8 ♠-N5
9 ♠-N5	10 ♠-N5	11 ♠-N5	12 ♠-N5
13 ♠-N5	14 ♠-N5	15 ♠-N5	16 ♠-N5

Preparing to play B-K3 without having to worry about N-N5.

17 ♠-N5 18 ♠-N5 19 ♠-N5 20 ♠-N5 21 ♠-N5 22 ♠-N5 23 ♠-N5 24 ♠-N5 25 ♠-N5 26 ♠-N5 27 ♠-N5 28 ♠-N5 29 ♠-N5 30 ♠-N5 31 ♠-N5 32 ♠-N5

The final signs of indecision which are followed by an even weaker demonstration of doubt. He could have tried N-R4 but the damage was already done with his twelfth move.

A losing move that should have been avoided. Instead 12 N-B2 came into consideration.

Aiming at Q-B4 where it strikes at two weaknesses in the White camp. Now White should have played P-QN4 but he did not like this multiplying move.

29 ♠-N5 30 ♠-N5 31 ♠-N5 32 ♠-N5 33 ♠-N5 34 ♠-N5 35 ♠-N5 36 ♠-N5 37 ♠-N5 38 ♠-N5 39 ♠-N5 40 ♠-N5 41 ♠-N5 42 ♠-N5 43 ♠-N5 44 ♠-N5 45 ♠-N5 46 ♠-N5 47 ♠-N5 48 ♠-N5 49 ♠-N5 50 ♠-N5 51 ♠-N5 52 ♠-N5

Otherwise there comes R-B7 but by now the threats were too many.

Proud so



to play, with *Raymondia Act III* and *MacMillan's Elite* incarnations. Lesley Collier and Lesley Eagle playing *Swan Lake*.

JANET SMITH
The Place, Dukeries Road, Euston (Tel 07 0031). Today and Sun at 9pm
members of Janet Smith's company will show their own works this programme, together with Robert North's *Miniatures* to music by Stravinsky.

TOUR
Theater's *Wells Royal Ballet* is at Congress Theatre, Eastbourne, Sat 23-25/96 today at 2.30 and 8pm, then at the Gaumont, Hampton, (07-05-23771) Monday at 7.30pm, matinee Wed at 11, Dec 8 at 2.30pm.

*Featuring Beauty runs Mon-Thurs: Sat, Fri and Dec 8, the Bill and Ted's Asitron's The Dream and the Puppet Ballet at the Festival Palace at the Astoria theatre (0272-299444) is The Astoria today and Wed, then a mixed be- tween the virtuosic marathons and the production of *Alvin's Night Creature*, to Duke of Mass.*

Concerts: Max Harris; Opera: Mary Fife; Dance: Julia Panchal

THE WEEK

Radio

YOU, THE JURY: Dick Taverne, the programme's first chairman, returns after 10 years for the start of a new series. The motion for the first debate, that "men are just as much in need of liberation as women" is proposed by Hilary Rose, Professor of Social Sciences at Bradford University and opposed by Professor Hans Eysenck. As usual, the studio jury will vote both before and after hearing the arguments. Radio 4, today, 10.15-11pm.

MASTER'S INDIA: The ambitious drama series based on the Indian novels of John Masters reaches the third book, *The Lotus and the Wind*. It opens with Robin Savage, now 24 and a lieutenant in the army, still suffering the effects of the mutiny and in love with Anne Hildreth, daughter of the new commander-in-chief, William. Masters plays Robin, Juliet Stevenson is Anne and Nicky Henson is Robin's rival in love. Radio 4, tomorrow, 9.02-10pm.

EDUCATION NOW: A series of five phone-ins, Mon to Fri, in which education experts will answer questions from listeners. The topics covered include the new 16-plus examination, parent power, children with special needs and training for a career. The programmes are on Radio 4, VHF each day from 2-2.30pm. The number to call to put questions is 01-580 4411, while after the programmes an advice service will be available on 01-933 0366.

AYCKBOURN PROFILED: Alan Ayckbourn, probably the most popular dramatist in Britain, this year celebrates his silver jubilee in the theatre. His first play, *The Square Cat*, had its premiere in Scarborough in 1939 and he has

since written 30 more, including *Relatively Speaking*, *The Norman Conquests* and *Bedroom Farce*. In a *Kaleidoscope* profile, the critic Paul Allen talks to Ayckbourn, Sir Peter Hall and actors Richard Briers and Penelope Keith. Radio 4, Wed 9.45-10.15pm.

THE STATE OF THE NATION: The final two programmes in the series, both produced and presented by Brian Redhead. He will be looking particularly at the impact of the recession on English society and among those giving their views are Lord Scarman, the Bishop of Liverpool (David Sheppard), the poet Norman Nicholson and the comedian Les Dawson. Radio 4, Thurs, 7.40-8pm; the second programme is on Dec 13.

Auctions

DES RES FOR DOLLS: A huge collection of dolls and doll's houses, Thomas Baty, 25 years to complete and furnish with miniature antiques is expected to make more than £5,000 in a sale of dolls and related materials on Wednesday. Phillips, Blenheim Street, London W1 (829 6802). Viewing Tues 9am-5pm, Wed 9-11am. Sale Wed noon.

CHINESE CERAMICS: Next to impressionists, these are the biggest money-pullers in the art market. Chinese ceramics are also on offer this week, with the big sales in town for the Impressionist sales. Christie's has the Piccus collection of important Annamese bronzes for sale at 11am on Friday, and "Fine and Early Chinese Ceramics and Works of Art" follows at 12.15 and 2.30pm. Viewing Wed and Thurs 10am to 5pm. Christie's, 1 King Street, London SW1 (839-9080).



Collectors' choice: Piccus's La Goussiere (detail, left), Vase of Annamite (detail, right) by Egon Schiele

Rich impressions: It's the week that the London auction rooms pull out all the stops to attract the big spenders to their sales of Impressionist and Modern paintings. There is more serious money in this field than any other and prices are expected to top the million mark with important works by Picasso, Modigliani, Egon Schiele and others.

All auctions are on view from Monday in addition to a special afternoon view at all three houses tomorrow and this

morning at Phillips. The sales are as follows: Monday: Impressionist and Modern paintings and sculpture, Sotheby's, 11am; Impressionist and Modern drawings and watercolours, Sotheby's, 2.30pm. Tuesday: Impressionist and Modern watercolours and drawings, Christie's, 10.30am; Impressionist and Modern watercolours and sculpture, Christie's, 2.15pm; Contemporary art, Christie's, 4pm; Impressionist

and Modern paintings and sculpture, Sotheby's, 7pm.

Wednesday: Impressionist and Modern paintings and sculpture, Sotheby's, 11am; Impressionist and Modern drawings and watercolours, Sotheby's, 2.30pm.

Thursday: Post-War and Contemporary art, Sotheby's, 10.30am. Phillips, 7 Blenheim Street, London W1 (629 6602); Christie's, 8 King Street, London SW1 (839 9060); Sotheby's, 34-35 New Bond Street, London W1 (493 8080).

Sport

SNOOKER CLIMAX: The final of the Coral Union Kingsley Championship is being contested over 31 frames today and tomorrow at the Guildhall in Preston. Last year it went the whole way, with Alex Higgins eventually pipping Steve Davis 16-15. There is television coverage throughout the day, starting in Grandstand, BBC1, at 1.10pm, continuing on BBC2 at 5.20-7pm and returning to BBC1 at 10.20-10.50pm and 11.40pm-12.55am. Tomorrow's coverage is on BBC1, 2.25-5.55pm; 8.35-9.05pm and 10.55pm-12.30am.

IN THE RING: The unbeaten British heavyweight Fusa Benjo takes on Marvin Williams, the champion of a year ago trying unsuccessfully to take the world title from Larry Holmes. On the same bill at Alexandra Pavilion, London, Pat Cowdell, European super-featherweight champion, meets American Kevin Seabrook. ITV, Wed, 10.40-11.40pm.

Other events

ROYAL SMITHFIELD SHOW: the annual display of farm animals and the latest in agricultural machinery, spread over more than 300 stands. Earls Court Exhibition Centre, Warwick Road, London SW5. Mon-Thurs, 9am-7pm. Admission Mon-Wed 25p, Thurs 25p.

BOOKS GALORE: Two Bloomsbury hotels are holding book fairs. The monthly Provincial Booksellers' Fair is at the Russell Hotel, Russell Square, London WC1, tomorrow 2-7pm and Mon 10.30am-7pm, with 110 exhibitors. Information: 449 8457. The National Bookfair is at the Royal National Hotel, Bedford Way, WC1

on Mon 11am-5pm and Tues 10am-7pm and has 50 exhibitors. Information: 0803 865381.

JEWELLERY '84: Exhibition of work by 24 British jewellers, including Nicole Mina, Catherine Mannheim, Joel Degen and Sarah Fitzalan Howard. The 200 pieces on display include enamel, precious stones and silver, with prices ranging from £10 to £400. Dulwich Picture Gallery, College Road, London SE21 (893 5254). Opens Wed, Gallery open Tues-Sat 10am-1pm, 2-5pm, Sun 2-5pm. Admission 60p, concessions 30p. Until Dec 21.

MEMORIES OF THE EAST: Exhibition of early Islamic art, including ceramics, glass, metalwork, manuscripts and woodwork, from the 8th century of the 12th century to the Ottoman period of the 18th century. Momax Gallery, 42 Pembroke Road, London W11 (229 5573). Opens Thurs, Gallery open Mon-Fri 10am-6pm and Sat 1.30pm-4.30pm. Until Dec 30.

W.S. GRAHAM: Harold Pinter, Ruth Rosen and Geoffrey Goddard read the works of one of Britain's most distinguished living poets in an event organized by the Poetry Society. The artists are giving their services free for Mr Graham, who is recovering from surgery. Riverside Studios, Crisp Road, Hammersmith, London W6 (748 3354). Fri at 10pm. Tickets 22.50, Adults 22, children £1.

NATIONAL CAT CLUB SHOW: Claimed to be the world's largest cat show with more than 2,000 cats and kittens, both pedigree and pets, on display. A new feature this year is a competition for champion cat. National Hall, Olympia, London W14. Sat Dec 8, 10.30am-5.30pm. Adults 22, children £1.

ROCK & JAZZ

THEATRE

In preview

THE SECRET DIARY OF ADRIAN MOLE AGED 13½: The West End premiere of Sue Townsend's best-selling book. It has been partly recast, but Adrian is still played by 16-year old Simon Schatzberger. Mandy Travis and Nigel Bennett are his parents. Graham Watkins directs, and the music and lyrics are by Ken Howard and Alan Blackley. Wyndham's Theatre, Charing Cross Road, London WC2 (836 3028). Previews: Mon-Fri at 8pm, Sat at 5 and 8.15pm; matinee Wed at 3pm. Opens Dec 12 at 7pm (no matinee Dec 12).

Openings

THE HUMAN VOICE: By Jean Cocteau. Susannah York in her own production of a play written for the Bette Davis at the Comedie Francaise in 1930. As seen this year at Bromley, New York and at the Edinburgh Festival. This is the final production at the Gate at the Latchmere. The Gate at the Latchmere, 503 Brompton Park Road, London SW11 (228 2620). Opens: Mon at 7pm, until Dec 15, Tues-Sat at 8pm.



Man at arms: Coriolanus with Ian McKellen

BOZZY: David McKail portrays James Boswell in Frederic Mohr's one man play, a study of Dr Johnson's biographer, complete with bewildering recollections. Award-winner at Edinburgh Festival 1981. Directed by John Howard. Old Red Lion, St John Street, EC1 (837 7816). Opens Tues at 8pm, until Dec 22, Tues-Sun at 8pm.

THE CARRIER FREQUENCY: A collaboration between novelist Russell Hoban and Impact Theatre Co-operative. The setting is a 1,000 gallon pool of water. "Fragments of sound, messages from a radio station of despair, echo in this drowned world where people live with new fears and obsessions." Pete Brooks directs Heather McKay, Niki Johnson, Claire Macdonald, Richard Hawley, Graeme Miller, Steve Shill. Original music by Miller and Shill. ICA, The Mall, London SW1 (830 3847). Previews Tues at 8pm; Press Night Wed at 7pm. Until Dec 22, Tues-Sun at 8pm.

SESSIONS WITH FRENCH & SAUNDERS: The rock pythons, Jennifer Saunders, plus John Sessions, in a double-bill of new comedy cabaret. Kings Head Theatre Club, 115 Upper Street, Islington, London N1 (226 1516). Opens Mon at 8pm (dinner at 7pm), until Dec 15, Mon-Sat at 8pm (dinner at 7pm). **THE TIME OF THEIR LIVES:** devised by the Burnt Bridges Company with director Penny Charns, writer Tamara Griffiths and composer Lindsay Cooper, this new show looks at three well-known composers of the state of the world. Live music and choreography back up dialogue from the all-woman company. The Place, 17 Dukes Road, London WC1 (387 0031). First showings, Tues and Wed at 8pm. Moves to Watermans Arts Centre, 40 High Street, Brentford, Middlesex (568 1176) from Thurs to Dec 8; 8pm each night.

CORIOANUS: Sir Peter Hall directs Ian McKellen in the title role, with Irene Worth as Volturna, and a company including Geoffrey Burridge, Basil Henson, Greg Hicks, Wendy Morgan, Judith Paris, Barrie Rutter, David Ryall, John Savident and Frederick Treves. There are 90 seats on stage, as "best of the action". Oliver (828 2252). Previews Today, Mon-Wed at 7.15pm; Fri at 7.15pm. Press Night Dec 15, in repertory.

Keeping faith with Kipling

Notby Clark

The cast for *Jungle Book*, which opens at the Adelphi Theatre on Tuesday, have spent a lot of rehearsal time in the past four weeks learning how to walk on all fours and coordinate their "front" and "back" legs, and such subhuman activities as how monkeys groom each other. In this adaptation of Rudyard Kipling's *The Jungle Book*, the emphasis is on Kipling's story telling, conjuring up the atmosphere of the jungle through the language, rather than having actors dressed up in elaborate animal costumes in an attempt to have the audience believe they actually are animals. Leading the cast are Fenella Fielding as the sinuous and cunning Kaa, the rock python, and Jeremy Sinden, whose roles include the fat old bear Baloo, friend and teacher of little Mowgli.

The stories have been adapted by John Hatcher, who directs the production as well. He had the idea for the play after seeing Walt Disney's film. "I had been brought up on Kipling, and love it, and was disappointed with the film. It was entertaining, but I thought it cheapened the stories. I have tried to be faithful to Kipling, but in a style for the 1980s." He believes that the use of elaborate costumes and heavy masks limit an actor's performance, and experimented with a group of students to find a different way to present the stories. His adaptation began as a short children's show and was then expanded and put on last year at the New Vic's studio theatre in Bristol.

This is the first professional production, staged by Geoffrey Buckley and designed by Liz Fjelle.

Christopher Warman

Jungle Book, Adelphi (836 7611). Opens Tues until Jan 26. Mon-Sat at 7pm, matinee Wed and Sat 3pm



Snake charmer: Fenella Fielding as Kaa in *Jungle Book*

Selected

BREAKING THE SILENCE The Pit (828 8795). Today at 2 and 7.30pm. Mon and Tues at 7.30pm.

In repertory Inspired by his own ancestors' history, Stephen Pollakoff's subtle, complex new play watches an aristocratic Russian family adapt to post-1917 upheaval, hardship and finally exile. With Daniel Massey and Gamma Jones.

FORTY YEARS ON Queen's Theatre (734 1166). Mon-Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 5 and 8.15pm; matinee Wed at 3pm. Transferred from Cricchet, Alan Bennett's witty and nostalgic pageant of Britain from the 1900s to the 1960s, rich in wickily funny parodies and presented as a boys' public school play, with all that entails. Paul Eddington makes a dotty yet dignified headmaster.

HENRY VIII Barbican (828 6795/638 8891). Fri at 7.30pm.

The RSC's insolently Brechtian production has real flair and gives an interesting new shape to this usually unadorned play.

TWO INTO ONE Shaftesbury (379 5399). Mon-Fri at 8pm, Sat at 5.30 and 8.30pm; matinee Wed at 3pm. Donald Sinden and Michael Williams, both on their best form, in Ray Cooney's riotous farce of marital misunderstanding involving a philandering politician caught in flagrante in a Westminster hotel.

TWO PLANES AND A PASSION Greenwich Theatre, Crooms Hall, London SE10 (856 7755). Until Dec 15, Mon-Sat at 7.45pm; matinee Sat at 2.30pm. A subtle, original play on an epic scale that combines the beauty of the York Mystery Plays, the grandeur of Richard II's official visit, tragedy in his private life, broad comedy as snobbish locals vie to honour him - and a great deal more.

THE WAY OF THE WORLD Haymarket (930 9832). Mon-Sat at 7.30pm; matinee Wed at 2.30pm, Sat at 3pm. Maggie Smith at her scintillating best heads a starry cast (with John Moffat and Joan Plowright, especially delightful) in William Gaskill's beautifully staged, though rather bland, production of Congreve's high comedy.

Out of Town

LEICESTER: Haymarket, Belgrave Gate (533 5397). We and My Girl by Noel Gay. Until Dec 4 Mon-Thurs at 7.30pm, Fri and Sat at 8pm; matinee Sat at 4.30pm. From Dec 5 to Jan 26: Mon, Tues, Thurs at 7.30pm, Wed, Fri, Sat at 8pm; matinee Wed and Sat at 4.30pm, also on Dec 27, 28 at 4.30pm. The first professional production for 35 years of a musical which had a record-breaking run from 1897, and has since become an amateur company classic. Songs include "The Lambeth Walk", "Learning On a Lamp-Post", "Once You Lose Your Heart" and the title song. The cast includes Robert Lindsay and Emma Thompson, Frank Thornton, Richard Caddick, Robert Longden and Susannah Sellows, directed by Mike Ockrent.

OLDHAM: Coliseum, Falsbottom Street (661 624 2828). Red Riding Hood by Kenneth Alan Taylor. Until Jan 12, times vary. Until Dec 22: Mon-Sat at 2.30pm (not Dec 21); Thurs-Sat at 7.30pm (not Dec 20); also Dec 12, 17-20 at 10am. Traditional pantomime with slapstick, music, etc; specifically avoiding star names and variety acts to make this a show for the family.



Dotty dignity: Paul Eddington as the head in *Forty Years On*

SPANDAU BALLET: Tonight, Mayfield Leisure Centre, Belfast (0234 241633); Tues-Sun, Wembley Arena, Epsom (893 1234). From the caged and killed New Romantics of "To Cut a Long Story Short" to the beautiful and barbaric smoothies of their recent recordings would too great a step for any but the most dedicated posers. Of their competitors, only the Wham boys mirror so accurately the curious condition of young Britain.

PAUL YOUNG Tonight, Newcastle City Hall (0632 612606); Mon, Manchester Apollo (061 273 1112); Tues, Liverpool Empire (051 708 1553); Wed, NEC, Birmingham (021 780 2016); Fri, Coliseum, Colchester (0206 8111); (07281 4904). His concerts hardly rival the fineness of his records, but they do present an opportunity to admire the playing of his excellent band.

STYLE COUNCIL Tonight, Winter Gardens, Margate (0843 232795); Mon and Tues, Alibon Hall, Kensington Gore, London SW7 (589 8212). For all their chart success, Paul Weller and Mick Talbot seem to demonstrate an ability to reshape their influences into convincingly soulful music.

NIK KERSHAW Mon and Tues, Ipswich Gaumont (0473 53641); Wed, Brighton Centre (0273 202861); Thurs, Bournemouth Centre (0202 96646). Pop music for shopping centres. **KOOL & THE GANG** Mon and Tues, Edinburgh Playhouse (031 557 2590); Wed, Manchester Apollo (061 273 1112); Fri, NEC, Birmingham (021 780 2016). Disco music for shopping centres - although quite recently in their lengthy history, with "Too Hot", "Jones vs Jones" and "Take My Heart", they had more to offer.

BILLY ECKSTINE Tonight and Mon-Sat, Ronnie Scott's Club, 47 Finsbury Street, London W1 (439 0747). A rare British appearance by the inventor of the "Mr B" rolled button-down shirt collar, the man whose mid-Forties big band included Otis Blackwell and Charlie Parker (not to mention Fats Navarro and Art Blakey), the boss of the bebop barones and - probably the achievement for which he is most widely known - the partner of Sarah Vaughan on "Passing Strangers", a hit in 1957.

KEITH TIPPETT Tomorrow, Midland Gallery, Bristol (0272 298191). None of the American heavyweight solo performers - including Cecil Taylor and Keith Jarrett - has made more stimulating discoveries than Tippett, who returns home to Bristol for a recital which should display his ability to make the very air vibrate in sympathy with wood and wire.

PETER KING QUINTET Tues, Third Eye Centre, Glasgow (041 557 7521); Thurs, Sunningdale Hotel, Inverness (0463 232531); Fri, Queen's Hall, Edinburgh (031 688 2117). Britain's finest bebop alto saxophonist takes his quintet - including the superb trumpeter Henry Lowther - on a short tour of Scotland.

UB40 Wed and Thurs, Barrowlands, Glasgow (041 522 4601); Fri, Edinburgh Playhouse (031 557 2590). Last year's album of cover versions - "Red Red Wine", "Many Rivers to Cross" and so on - provided a welcome change of pace. In the meantime, they have modified their rather wearing white-reggae style?

ALISON MOYET Wed and Thurs, Hammersmith Odeon, Queen Caroline Street, London W6 (748 4081). The big, soulful voice of Yazoo's "Don't Go" and "Only You" is enjoying a solo hit with the excellent "All Cried Out" as part of a campaign to turn her into the female counterpart of Paul Young.

THE CLASH Thurs and Fri, The Academy, 211 Stockwell Road, London SW9 (274 1525). All mouth and bondage trousers, Joe Strummer and Paul Simonon - the sole surviving founder members - raise the tempo and standard of reggae-punk.

The Week compiled by Peter Waymark; Theatre: Anthony Masters; Rock & Jazz: Richard Williams

FILMS

Openings

THE THIEF OF BAGDAD Dominion Theatre (880 8563). Douglas Fairbanks leaps through some of the most amazing decor in Hollywood history in this invigorating adventure, directed in 1924 by Raoul Walsh, presented with live musical accompaniment by Carl Davis (conducting the Philharmonia Orchestra). Part of the London Film Festival, sponsored by Thames Television. Today at 7.15pm. Tomorrow at 3pm and 7.15pm.

Selected

THE KILLING FIELDS (19) Warner West End (438 0791). Britain's lavish entry into the blockbuster war-movie arena, produced by David Putnam, directed by television veteran Roland Joffe. Sam Waterston stars as the American journalist covering the Cambodian war; fairly impressive in spurts.

A PRIVATE FUNCTION (15) Odeon Haymarket (930 2738). Alan Bennett's first cinema script offers the riotous, rude post-war tale of a Yorkshire chiropractitioner, a wife with social pretensions, and a pig with no social sense at all.

Directed by Malcolm Mowbray, with a glorious cast: Michael Palin, Maggie Smith and Denholm Elliott.

FULL MOON IN PARIS (15) Chelsea Cinema (351 3742). Camden Plaza (485 2443). Eric Rohmer's spare, elegant study of a girl trying to find her man and her independence, with an enchanting performance from Pascale Ogier who died suddenly in October aged 24.

LE BAL (PG) Lumiere (836 0891). Gato Notting Hill (221 0220/727 5750). Four decades of social and political history, portrayed in mime, with a single ballroom set and constantly changing dance styles. Ettore Scola's award-winning film was adapted from the Theatre du Campesano's famous stage production; diverting, novel, and a touch hollow.

A CHRISTMAS STORY (PG) Plaza (437 1234). The latest film by Bob Clark, director of *Porky's*, is an unexpected delight: a recreation of a small-town Christmas in the 1940s, seen through the eyes of a grave nine-year-old. Based on material by the humorist Jean Shepherd, full of bizarre details, and beautifully played by Peter Billingsley, Darren McGavin and Melinda Dillon.

THE BROTHER FROM ANOTHER PLANET (15) Classic Oxford Street (636 0310). Joyous send-up by maverick director John Singleton of all those science-fiction movies about strangers from outer space trying to understand earthly civilization - in this case, Harlem. With Joe Morton as the black extra-terrestrial.

NOT FOR PUBLICATION (15) ABC Fulham Road (870 2636). Classic Tottenham Court Road (636 6148). Black humorist Paul Bartel (*Eating Raoul*) turns his hand to the scandal press in this irreverent look at contemporary America. Nancy Allen as the ambitious reporter leading a double life.

Never mind the quality, feel the advance promotion

Financiers, distributors and cinema managers may rub their hands over the impending British release of *Gremlins* and *Ghostbusters*, but the critics can only twiddle their thumbs. These films make us redundant: whatever we say, audiences will flock to them, primed by months of publicity from America, and the knowledge that *Ghostbusters* has become Columbia's biggest box-office success. American critics were no better off when the films first opened in June, for both had been garlanded with carefully orchestrated promotion campaigns, not to mention spin-off merchandise.

In *Gremlins* small, furry, but not entirely lovable creatures run amok in a cosy little town. The film marks Steven Spielberg's return to E.T. territory, though he functions only as an executive producer; the director is Joe Dante, previously responsible for *The Howling* and part of *Twilight Zone - The Movie*. When *E.T.* opened in America, the licensed merchandisers were caught napping; here, they leaped into action months before the film was even complete, supplying wholesalers in advance with toys, watches, video games, beach towels, lunch boxes and greetings cards exploiting the likenesses of Gizmo the Mogwai and his sinister pals. They contrived to achieve this, moreover, without letting slip to the world what the creatures looked like, for fear of piracy. But there was piracy anyway.

If you buy a *Gremlins* key chain, cap, or laptop button, you may be acquiring unauthorized merchandise made in the Far East.

In the case of *Ghostbusters* - a supernatural spoof from the



Spooky pair: Gizmo the Gremlin (left) with Billy (Zach Galligan) and *Ghostbuster* Spengler (Harold Ramis) wearing a haunted look

rowdy comedy team of Bill Murray, Dan Aykroyd, Harold Ramis and Director Ivan Reitman - the June release was preceded by a cryptic but devastating advertising campaign. In newspapers and television commercial spots, there appeared an unidentified logo, featuring a harried-looking ghost poking out of a red circle. No film title was mentioned, only the slogan "Coming to Save the World this Summer". Whether *Ghostbusters* saved the world remains open to argument, but

its instant success certainly saved Columbia. With current box-office receipts totalling more than \$62m, they will even be able to shoulder the poor performance of their Somerset Maugham adaptation, *The Razor's Edge*, which Bill Murray insisted on making as his price for appearing in *Ghostbusters*.

But, the merchandise and promotional gambits cannot compare with the films themselves. Both are perfect industry commodities; both are machines

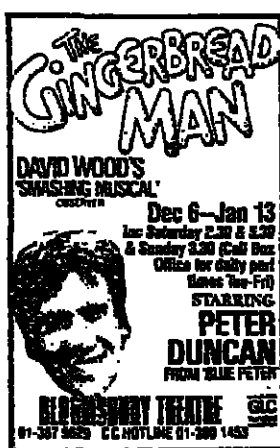
for yanking audiences from Comedy to horror, from one splurge of special effects to another. *Ghostbusters* confidently ate up a budget of some \$30m in its presentation of supernatural forces unleashed on Manhattan. No expense or expertise was spared in putting *Gremlins*' furry creatures through their paces, either. Some audiences, however, have found those paces too horrific for family viewing, which may go some way to explain why *Gremlins* has chalked up less

American business than its team-mate.

Well, that's my thumb-twiddling done. The rest is up to you.

Geoff Brown

Gremlins (15) opens in London on Fri at the Warner West End (438 0791), ABC Fulham Road (870 2110), ABC Bayswater (229 6620), ABC Edgware Road (723 6901). *Ghostbusters* (PG) opens the same day at the Odeon Leicester Square (930 6111), Odeon Swiss Cottage (688 3057), Odeon Kensington (802 6844), Classic Chelsea (832 5866).



Man at arms: Coriolanus with Ian McKellen

150-60-1150

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Ebullient Kalms must work with the Currys

Mr Stanley Kalms, chairman of Dixons, was in ebullient form yesterday when his bid for Currys went unconditional. "It's a great day for us," he rhapsodized, "and the last thing I want now is blood on the boardroom carpet. We want to meet the Currys family, and to start applying the Dixons formula. We're both retailers, we speak the same language, and can do dramatically well together. Let's forget about the rows."

According to Mr Kalms, who realizes a boyhood dream with Dixons' £250 million purchase of Currys, the first thing he wants to do with Currys is to review the buying procedures, and develop the product range. "The High Street can look forward to the rejuvenation of an old friend," he said, adding that Dixons' trading in the run-up to Christmas was shooting ahead.

At Morgan Grenfell, Mr Roger Seelig conceded that it was a very close run thing. The bid was declared unconditional around noon, and by 3 pm, Dixons had received 51.44 per cent of valid acceptances. Yesterday morning's postbag had brought some withdrawals. The percentages were very tight.

Six hours after the bid went unconditional, Currys' board had still not conceded defeat. Mr Terry Curry was locked in a boardroom meeting and could not be disturbed.

The size of the Curry family holding has been variously estimated at 30-40 per cent. Working off the lower figure meant that Dixons needed to win 70 per cent acceptances from the remaining shareholders to win control. Dixons' victory stemmed from a combination of hard pounding and institutional support. The Curry family's hostility never wavered throughout the bid. The virtue of the SG Warburg defence lay in securing a takeover price far closer to the underlying value of the assets, and more than double the pre-bid price in the market.

Effectively the institutions collectively have now put a top management team in contact with high quality retail assets. The new group is formidable, with pro forma sales and assets of £750 million and £50 million respectively. Minimum, if any, earnings dilution should flow from the deal.

Though the City has made its perception of Dixons' improved quality of earnings clear - the Dixons share price has risen throughout the deal - the final conclusion may be a little farther off. It is possible that the Curry family, if it accepts Dixons' paper, will play a powerful role since it could end up with around 12 per cent. Persistent rumours have surfaced throughout the bid of a white knight in the wings, and assuming that the Curry stake is homogenous, then Mr Kalms and his team starts operating with a large Trojan horse.

VAT on buildings a racing certainty

The debate on extending value added tax coverage is now in full swing. Everyone expects the Chancellor to do something evil in his next Budget, whether it be to books, newspapers, children's clothes, food or any of the other products which are now zero-rated.

In September, the European Commission announced that it was pursuing a legal challenge to Britain's zero-ratings on new non-residential construction, newspaper advertisements and news services, certain water and sewerage supplies, animal feedstuffs, fuel and power supplies

to industry, and industrial protective helmets and boots.

The Chancellor and his Treasury colleagues have repeatedly declared their aim of shifting the taxation burden from taxes on earnings to taxes on spending. The image is of Mr Nigel Lawson and the Euphrates in Brussels forming an irresistible alliance to root out Britain's pockets of VAT exemption.

An alternative interpretation is provided by Mr Jamie Stevenson, former economics director of the Building Employers' Confederation and recently recruited by the stockbrokers Savory Miln as a building analyst. Mr Stevenson says that while the Chancellor would like to have widened the VAT net to cover non-residential construction in the next Budget, he is now committed to fighting the Commission in the European Court of Justice.

The outcome, he predicts, will be a victory for the Commission, and a ruling that Britain must comply with the EEC Sixth Directive on VAT.

Given that the court case is likely to take two years, implementation would not be possible until March 1987.

The building industry could benefit from such a delay through a short-term building boom. Funds and developers would bring forward plans against the certainty of VAT in 1987.

The Treasury does not see things in the same way. It argues that there is no inconsistency between defending the general principle of zero-rating for certain products in Britain, and at the same time reducing the list of products outside the VAT net.

Non-residential new construction has always been a curious exemption. Mr Lawson tackled the politically difficult area of home improvements and extensions in his last Budget. He is unlikely to touch the politically explosive area of VAT on new homes. VAT on non-residential new construction therefore looks a racing certainty, despite Mr Stevenson's two-year delay scenario, for the March Budget.

Great and universal

Sir Isaac Wolfson built a retailing empire which without a hint of modesty he called Great Universal Stores. He is a legendary figure who, save briefly in the early days, did not court personal publicity. His son, Sir Leonard, who now directs GUS's fortunes, is also a private man, preferring to let the light of publicity fall on the business and not on himself. There is a third man, Mr Harold Bowman, who for 20 years, has had the delicate job of striking the right balance between Isaac's and Leonard's preference for privacy and the pressing interest of newspapers in the mighty GUS. His success in drawing the dividing lines has been remarkable: a model in an unusually difficult area of corporate public relations.

In the course of 20 years Harold Bowman has got to know personally more financial editors and reporters than any other company director in Britain. If they can write a story about him, he could write a book about them. This evening, for the sixteenth time, Harold and his courageous wife Dene will give their annual Christmas cocktail party for their Fleet Street friends and guests from business and the City.

It is the only gathering of its kind - uniquely composed and for that reason, a tribute to a rare man.

Volcker fears US deficit will provoke trade war

From Bailey Morris, Washington

Mr Paul Volcker, chairman of the US Federal Reserve Board, has issued a strong warning that the mounting American trade deficit is creating an unsustainable level of protectionism which will be matched by tough retaliation abroad.

"We have serious problems with the trade deficit. We cannot count indefinitely on the capital inflow from abroad. We must have when we import more goods and services than we export," Mr Volcker said in New York.

His remarks were released as European and American officials tried to head off a new trade war over American efforts to ban EEC steel pipe exports and the Reagan Administration announced that the US trade deficit is a record \$105.5 billion (£88 billion) for the first 10 months of the year.

Last month, the trade deficit narrowed significantly to \$9.18 billion from \$12.64 billion in

September but Mr Malcolm Baldrige, the US commerce secretary, predicted yesterday that the deficit for the year would total \$130 billion, almost double last year's deficit of \$69 billion.

Compounding the gloomy trade picture was a report by a group of industry representatives that US companies are taking advantage of changes in the law to seek more and earlier trade protection from imports.

The new trade law passed by Congress last month, coupled with recent decisions by the US International Trade Commission, has equipped American companies with new tools to fight imports by claiming injury from dumping both in mature industries and new high technology industries, officials said.

Mr Volcker said that unless Congress and the Reagan Administration find ways to resist "already strong pressures



Paul Volcker: unsustainable level of protectionism

for protection" he fears swift retaliation from abroad in a development which would exacerbate international tensions.

However, the Reagan Administration has indicated, both in its decision to ban exports of steel pipes after terminating talks with Europeans and in its

recent comments at a meeting on the general agreement on tariffs and trade (GATT) that it plans a new "get tough" policy on trade in Mr Reagan's second term.

However, Wall Street was falling for the second day running yesterday, largely on surprise at the biggest-than-expected increase in US money supply. This served to keep many investors away from the market and trading lighter than usual.

Low volume also characterized the London stock market, where the FT 30-share index fell another 8.5 to 917.3, making a two-day fall of 11.9 from the all-time peak of 929.2.

The pound's dip below \$1.20 against the dollar dented sentiment, but the main influence yet again was British Telecom. The uncertainty ahead of this weekend's official announcement of BT share allocations deterred dealers from committing themselves.

Tempus, page 25

Banks to offer Argentina \$4 billion

By John Lawless

Western bankers yesterday agreed Argentina could be offered just over \$4 billion under a new money loan. But they apparently failed to meet their end of November deadline for agreeing a package of terms under which the money will be lent.

Argentina, will be disappointed with the offer. It had been seeking \$5.45 billion. The banks had rejected that demand before the talks started in New York a week ago, and had been suggesting between \$2.8 billion and \$3.5 billion.

It now seems likely that Argentina will have to look to the US Government for a bridging loan. It needs to have a complete financial package in place quickly in order for the International Monetary Fund to formally approve its request for a \$1.4 billion stand by credit by the end of December.

The IMF managing director, Mr Jacques de Larosiere, has always said that a debtor country must have secured sufficient new money commitments before he will submit its economic recovery programme to his executive board for approval. There is still a danger, therefore, that the IMF package, worked out by September, could collapse.

Although negotiations are the most difficult, the banks have faced in two years of Latin American debt reschedulings, the pressure is clearly on the Argentines to agree to tight conditions.

Although Argentina is likely to get a multi-year rescheduling agreement, covering debts falling due between 1982 and 1985, it is highly unlikely to get the favourable terms advanced to Mexico this year under a similar scheme.

One US banker said yesterday that Argentina had become a victim of its own intransigence. It has angered the 320 banks worldwide, which will be asked to subscribe to the new loan, by seriously delaying interest payments on previous loans. The \$2.5 billion owed since May will have to be instantly repaid from any settlement.

BICC shake-up to cost 430 jobs

By Jeremy Warner

BICC, the cables and electronics group, is to make 430 people redundant over the next six months in the unemployment blackspot of Merseyside.

The redundancies form part of a restructuring of the company's operations in the Liverpool and Manchester areas. However, about 200 new jobs will be created during 1986 in optical fibre manufacturing at Prescott, Merseyside.

BICC said that the steps being taken were necessary for the future prosperity and security of the businesses involved. The chief executive, Sir William Barlow, said: "We will be spending a great deal of money creating a modern and progressive future for the Prescott industrial complex. On balance we believe this is good news for the North-west."

The cost to BICC of the redundancies and new investment will be about £19 million.

Gatt agrees more talks

From Alan McGregor, Geneva

A proposal for a high-level meeting next year to assess prospects for a new round of multilateral trade liberalization negotiations was approved yesterday as the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) wound up its four-day annual session.

The developing countries, headed by Brazil, India and Egypt, remained adamant, however, that, before going into

a new round, GATT must dispose of unfinished business from the previous one, particularly in agricultural trade and efforts to curb growing protectionism.

The demand by the US for immediate talks on banking, shipping, insurance services, telecommunications, an estimated \$500,000 (£416,000) worth of trade annually, was rejected by the developing nations.

Concern at Dunlop over investors

By Ian Griffiths

The main concern for the new Dunlop Holdings board, chaired by Sir Michael Edwards, is the reaction it will receive from shareholders who will see a dilution of up to 90 per cent of their investment, with the capital reconstruction at the group only weeks away.

Dunlop is keen to mitigate the impact on small shareholders who make up the bulk of the share register, although it is restricted by the poor financial health of the company which has debts of £380m.

The biggest shareholder with 26 per cent is the Malaysian Pegi Corporation. It has supported the board, but some experts have suggested that the Dunlop investment will result in a 50 per cent erosion in its net asset value which might force a late change of heart.

One of the few remaining institutional investors is the Post Office Pension Fund which has a stake of about 3 per cent. It is understood that there are no plans for the fund to oppose the reconstruction.

A factor which might help the company is the US shareholder through American Depository Receipts. About 25 per cent are held in this form by small US investors. Last night, Morgan Guaranty Trust, the nominee shareholders, reported from New York that the level of interest in Dunlop as low. The capital reconstruction might therefore arouse little opposition.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Bid for East Lancashire Paper lifted

British Syphon Industries has made an improved and final offer for East Lancashire Paper Group worth £5.6 million in cash and £5.45 million in cash or loan notes. The share offer is unchanged, but the cash and loan note alternative values East Lancashire shares at 100p, against a previous cash offer of 96p. East Lancashire has not decided on its reply.

G M Firth, the steel stockist and share dealing company, has raised its stake in East Lancashire to 13.34 per cent. East Lancashire's shares closed down 4p at 107p.

TYNE TEES TELEVISION Holdings has increased pretax profits for the year to September 30 from £2.3 million to £2.6 million. Turnover increased from £40.5 million to £46 million. The final dividend of 7.5p makes 10.5p for the year, against 8.25p last time.

CHINA has signed a \$50 million (£41 million) joint venture contract with a British consortium to provide the country with advanced technology, electronic components and microcomputers. The partners are undisclosed, but Rair, the British microcomputer company is thought to be one.

WESTBURY HOMES, the Cheltenham builder, has been bought out by its senior management team for £12

Early start for Telecom option deals

By Philip Robinson

Traded options contracts in British Telecom will start less than 24 hours after dealings in the ordinary shares and a week earlier than planned.

The options are used as an investment hedge against the price of the underlying stock when markets are likely to be volatile. Dealers have campaigned for some time to gain immediate access to the market, which some members of the Stock Exchange Council say should wait a week before starting.

However, the first boost to

the market came with the Jaguar flotation in August. Dealings were allowed almost immediately.

The Telecom decision established a pattern which will seal victory for Mr David Steen, a partner in the stockjobbing firm Pinchin Denny, and his colleagues who have been at the heart of the campaign. First dealings will start at 9.35am on Tuesday.

He said last night: "We feel that it will now be the rules that traded options will be allowed almost immediately in the big

privatization issues like British Airways."

Telecom brings the total number of traded options stocks to 28. Contracts have been running at about 5,000 a day although yesterday volume dropped to 3,600.

Meanwhile, Hill Woolgar & Company, a firm of licensed dealers, said yesterday that it would be making a market in Telecom shares simultaneously with dealings starting on the Stock Exchange at 3pm on Monday.

British Gas defends cost of supplies from Norway

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

British Gas calculates that the cost of its proposed contract to buy natural gas from the Norwegian sector of the North Sea will be more than matched by the benefits to British industry from gas field developments in the British sector.

The corporation has estimated that more than 70 per cent of the natural gas it will supply each year in the 1990s will come from British gas fields.

Mr Robert Evans, chief executive of British Gas, said yesterday that planned spending on the fields in the British sector which British Gas will buy from between now and the year 2000 will be £20 billion at 1983 prices.

Mr Evans added: "This £20 billion bonanza surely indicates that there is a bright future for British yards and contractors, if

they are competitive enough to get their share of the action."

"Faster development of British gas would not necessarily benefit them. Either the work would go abroad, or the British industry would go through a quick boom and bust. It is surely better for the industry to know that it will have a constant flow of work stretching far ahead."

The contract under which British Gas will buy from the Norwegian Sleipner field in the 1990s has still to win final approval from the British and Norwegian governments.

However, British Gas is convinced that its own and other oil industry forecasts point to the necessity of the Sleipner gas being bought to fill a supply gap early in the 1990s.

Mr Evans said: "No one will be more pleased than I if current estimates turn out to be

conservative. But we have to make decisions now on the basis of the best information that is available, and optimistic cases do not provide a sensible basis for policy planning."

"We would be forced into panic buying of any gas available, home or imported, at a price dictated by the sellers. This would then have to be reflected in consumer prices."

"We would have to keep faith with the customers to whom we have a statutory obligation, but to keep their supplies secure we would have to consider dropping some of our contract customers."

"The big industrial users would be forced to switch to more expensive fuels and thus lose one of the few advantages British industry has over its competitors - access to the lowest priced gas supply in Europe," he said.



At 9am on Thursday 15th February 1985 we'll prove conclusively, that it is still possible to double your money in just six weeks by investing in penny shares.

THE EXPERT'S EXPERT
Stockmarket Confidential (or SMC for short) is a rather unassuming looking news sheet which is sent, by first class post, every Wednesday evening.

Despite its innocuous appearance it is a eagerly read on Tuesday morning by a handful of investors up and down the country.

Some of these investors will be professional stockbrokers, heads of industry and other leading financial experts. Between them they may control, literally, millions of pounds.

Others will be smaller, private investors sometimes with as little as £500 or £1,000 with which to speculate.

But what every reader of Stockmarket Confidential has in common is the desire to discover what is likely to happen on the stock market that coming week.

Simply, they want to know which shares are going to go up, and which shares are going to come down. And they want to know why.

THE SECRET OF INVESTMENT SUCCESS
The only way to make money on the stock market is to have reliable advice and the ability to move fast, before the word gets around and prices rocket.

In Stockmarket Confidential we make buying and selling recommendations, offer sound investment analysis and, most important of all, suggest one or more "Hot Tips" for the week.

If you haven't asked our "Hot Tip" by Thursday lunchtime you've missed the boat - other SMC subscribers will have already pushed prices up. You'll discover that very often the best investments are the "penny shares"... Seasoned Explorers, for instance, which rocketed from 12p to 52p in just 48 days... Bellair Commodities from 22p to £10.50... Delmaria Properties from 7p to £6.50... just three examples from a long list of recently successful "penny shares".

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PROFIT RECORD SINCE 15th AUGUST 1984

It's all very well knowing what to buy - the real secret is knowing what to sell. This is our full "sell" record since the 15th August 1984.

Share	Buy Price	Sell Price	% Gain
GRA	15p	48p	270%
PHN Electricals	24p	34p	40%
VZ Investments	17p	24p	40%
Leamington Group	37p	50p	35%
Railcliff (GB)	86p	117p	35%
Chubb & Co	120p	160p	33%
Urban Walker	150p	195p	30%
Daly's Packing	100p	140p	28%
Manchester Ship Canal	141p	240p	69%
BSC International	10p	30p	100%
C.H. Bailey	10p	30p	100%
London & Continental Holdings	37p	150p	460%
Callen Stores	240p	435p	76%

* All percentages gains allow for dealing costs.

4th January 1985, all you need do is complete and return the coupon below.

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We'd suggest that you invest it in any one of our "Hot Tips" for that week. Because if you do, and your £500 of shares aren't worth £1,000 by 19th February 1985, we'll make up the difference in cash.

That's right, we're so confident that our advice is sound we believe that £500 will be worth £1,000 in just six weeks!

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* One or more "Hot Tips" sent by Thursday lunchtime before our subscribers push up the prices.
* Portfolio monitor - watching shares already upped and recommending sells where appropriate.
* Investment analysis including gold, building societies and gilts.
* Valuable inside information for long term capital growth.

As a subscriber you will be given a "Hot Tip Hotline" phone number, so that if you're away from home on a Thursday you can hear a summary of that week's SMC.

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SMC was originally published to help only experienced investors.

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PERKS

Investment club offers deals at a discount

Anyone interested in tempting discounts on a wide range of investments should look carefully at a new investment club set up by R. J. Temple, the licensed dealer in securities.

Membership of Investors' Circle costs £4 to join and then £35 a year. For this you get useful perks such as free membership of the IRPC Legal Advisory Club and two years' free subscription to the personal finance magazine *Money* (normally worth £30).

But membership of the club also brings impressive discounts on some investments. Members who take out a medical insurance policy with either BUPA or Private Patients' Plan will receive a 15 per cent discount on their subscriptions.

For unit trust investors the club provides bonuses of 1.5 per cent on units purchased, on single premium bonds there is a 2.5 per cent bonus and 1 per cent on guaranteed income bonds.

For investments in regular premium contracts like life policies and pension plans members will normally get a 25 per cent discount in the first year.

So far a top rate taxpayer arranging a pension plan through the club with £100 a month premium will receive a £25 reduction. And after his £60 tax relief he will only in fact be paying £15 a month for the first year.

The discount on unit trusts offered to club members compares well with discounts obtainable from unit trust companies if you buy direct. Framlington, for instance, will give a 1.25 per cent discount if you are switching your money into Framlington's trusts.

Some groups offer as much as 2 per cent discounts.

These reductions are only available if you buy the units direct from the company itself and not through an intermediary. And you get no discount if you do not ask whether one is available.

£24m goes begging

Supplementary benefits amounting to £24 million a week are going unclaimed because most pensioners do not realise that they are eligible to claim. Some are too proud to inquire about their entitlement.

Age Concern has just published the 12th edition of its guide *Your Rights for Pensioners*. This covers the latest changes, many of which came into force only this week. The guide also explains clearly the benefits available and the claims procedures.

Other subjects covered include early retirement, benefits for disabled elderly people, paying for residential care, income tax, NHS charges, legal help and travel concessions.

The guide is available from leading booksellers, at 65p.

Join the TSB

If you have digested British Telecom, prepare yourself for a second onslaught from that ace promoter of things financial, Dewe Rogers, the City public relations firm which has won the contract for the privatization of the Trustee Savings Bank.

And do not waste time. Open a TSB account now, because it is a near certainty that TSB account holders will be offered some sort of preferential share

deal. The formula for determining the preferential share allocation is bound to be some combination of the amount invested and the length of time the account has been in existence.

The TSB has all the advantages of the building societies - friendly, approachable image - without any of the disadvantages of the high street banks like nasty loans to Brazil, or difficult commercial customers. In recent years they have been realizing their regional operations, amalgamating their regional boards and they now have some dynamic management in place - all set to take on the other banks, and the building societies. This could be a share worth having.

Loans galore

Home loans, as large as you need for as little as 11.25 per cent, are on offer from the investment adviser Mr Paul Marks, of Chase de Vere. He explains: "The minimum loan is £40,000 but there is no maximum. We will also do endowment, straight repayment or pension loans without charging any extra and there is no interest take surcharge, however large the loan. We will also do mortgages at the same rates."

You can borrow up to 70 per cent of the property's valuation or purchase price (whichever is the lower) and the income multiple used to determine the



"According to your doctor we should halve the amount of the loan"

maximum loan is two and a half times joint incomes.

Those who need to borrow up to 80 per cent of the purchase price will have to pay an extra 0.25 per cent for their money. They will also be restricted to a loan no larger than two and a half times the principal wage earner's income. Details from Mr Paul Marks, Chase de Vere, 125 Pall Mall, London SW1. (Tel: 01-930 7242).

Retirement advice

If you are coming up for retirement, you might fancy a bit of advice from the Pru which is running open retirement counselling courses from next spring. You will, however, have to persuade your employer that it is worthwhile coughing up the £100 plus VAT it will cost for the full two-day seminar.

Each seminar provides a programme covering financial planning, health, leisure, living arrangements and opportunities for further employment, with a team of presenters selected for their technical skills in those areas. Everyone is given a comprehensive pack of notes, relevant books and an audio cassette at the end of the course.

If you want to know more, details are available from Mr Roy Elms, Retirement Counselling Service, The Prudential, 142 Holborn Bars, London EC1N 2NH. (Tel: 01 405 9222).

Charity commission

You can give money to charity this Christmas without it costing you a penny. Mr Sean Seager, an investment adviser at Whitechurch Securities, is donating all commissions earned on unit trust purchases made through him between now and Christmas (minus £10 per transaction to cover his costs) to PHAB (Physically Handicapped, Able Bodied). If you do not actually want to invest

before Christmas, write to Mr Seager and he will send you a voucher which can be used after Christmas but will ensure that when you do buy through him the commission gets passed on to PHAB. PHAB is a charity which aims to help the physically handicapped become rehabilitated within the community. It runs youth clubs where able bodied children mix with physically handicapped ones and learn how to deal with disability. You can obtain your voucher from Whitechurch Securities, Freeport, Teddington TW11 8ER. Tel: 01-877 5854.

£2 note proposed

The halfpence coin ceases to be legal tender at the end of this year and the £1 note will follow it in due course. While the Bank of England is trying to persuade us to love the stumpy £1 coin, Portals, the banknote paper supplier for the currencies of over 100 countries, is suggesting that we ought to have a £2 note.

Portals could just be talking its own book. But it says that the Bank of England ought to bring the quality of paper used for banknotes up to the highest international standards and at the same time introduce a £2 note on high durability paper.

Surprise, surprise, Portals has recently developed such a paper which could be expected to last twice as long as the present £1 note.

"The need for a £2 note is based on the requirement to avoid a five-to-one ratio between the lowest denomination note and the highest denomination coin, which can mean as many as nine coins being given in change for a £5 note. This is inefficient in terms of distribution costs in addition to the problems facing retailers and the public," Portals explains.

Home and abroad

The first major comparison of national housing finance systems has just been published by the International Union of Building Societies.

The author, Mr Mark Boland, Deputy Secretary General of the British Building Societies Association, has covered housing finance from the Philippines and South Korea to Canada and the United States.

The book, called *National Housing Finance Systems*, contains a mass of statistical information, including such uniformly given data as 70 per cent of families in Bolivia, Honduras, Paraguay, Peru and Venezuela own their own homes.

The book is co-published by the International Union of Building Societies and Croom Helm and is available at £20, plus £1 for postage and packing, from Croom Helm, Provident House, Burnes Row, Beckenham, Kent, BR3 1AT.

FREE BANKING

Midland breaks ranks of Big Four

Fifty per cent of former Midland Bank customers asked why they were closing their account cited bank charges as the main reason.

This is the background behind Midland's decision this week to join the Scottish banks, Williams & Glyn's, Yorkshire, the Co-op and National Giro banks in doing away with bank charges for customers who keep their accounts in credit.

It will be interesting to see how the other three High Street banks react to the Midland move which, there is no doubt, will be bound to encourage waverers, fed up with Lloyds, NatWest or Barclays charging for the privilege of borrowing their money, to make the plunge and move their bank accounts.

Recent moves by NatWest and Barclays have been in the opposite direction with both imposing higher charges (a flat £3 quarterly service fee) on accounts which dip below the £100 minimum balance.

	Minimum balance free banking	ATM	Direct debit	Item charges	Standing order	Cheque	Other	Notional interest abatement %
Barclays	£100 or average of 10c/1979 10c/1974 10c/1969	26	15	26	26	26	£3t	3 fixed
Lloyds	£100	20	20	30	30	30	3t	3*
Midland	0	15	15	28	28	28	2t	4*
NatWest	£100	12	12	29	29	29	£3t	3 fixed
Co-op	0	30	30	30	30	30	-	-
Giro	0	30	30	30	30	30	-	-
TSB	£100	10	15	15	15	15	-	-
Williams & Glyn's	0	14	14	28	28	28	3t	3*
Yorkshire	0	28	28	28	28	28	3t	3*

* Below seven day deposit rate. † Quarterly charge.

But just as all the banks have been obliged to follow the Barclays lead on Saturday opening, it seems likely that sooner or later the others will have to follow the Midland's initiative and cut charges.

However, they may take their time on this. If you are thinking

of making a move, now might be the time to review your finances.

One of the most useful accounts around is the Citibank Savings, Cheque Plus account which offers full cheque book facilities, free banking, and interest of 11.25 per cent on balances over £500 or 9.5 per cent between £1 and £500.

The only drawback is that you cannot have an overdraft. But if you run the Cheque Plus account in tandem with your High Street bank account, you should be able to reduce dramatically your bank charges if you pay them and earn useful interest on your cash balances.

Use the Cheque Plus account like a budget account and transfer each month from your normal account a sum sufficient to pay the bills. Write all your cheques on the Citibank Savings Account and you can almost do away with bank charges.

If you want to maximize the return, work out how much cash you are drawing a month and transfer all the excess by standing order to the Citibank savings account.

You then have the convenience of being able to obtain cash from your High Street bank's machines, leaving only the minimum lying idle in your account earning no interest.

Even though you are not keeping the magical minimum £100 in your High Street bank account, your bank charges should be negligible because you are not issuing cheques.

Bear in mind, too, that you are not getting free banking with Lloyds, NatWest, Barclays and the TSB even if you do not pay bank charges. The minimum balance of £100 means that you forgo interest on this amount.

Base Lending Rates

ABN Bank	9 1/2 %
Adam & Company	9 1/2 %
Barclays	9 1/2 %
BCCI	9 1/2 %
Citibank Savings	11 1/2 %
Consolidated Crds	9 1/2 %
Continental Trust	9 1/2 %
C. Hoare & Co	9 1/2 %
Lloyds Bank	9 1/2 %
Midland Bank	9 1/2 %
Nat Westminster	9 1/2 %
TSB	9 1/2 %
Williams & Glyn's	9 1/2 %
Citibank NA	9 1/2 %

* Mortgage Base Rate.

* 7 day deposits on sums of under £10,000, 6 1/2 %; £10,000 up to £50,000, 7 1/2 %; £50,000 and over, 8 %.

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Manchester Business School

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10 WEEK COURSE APRIL & OCTOBER PREPARES MANAGERS FOR PROFIT RESPONSIBILITY/GENERAL MANAGEMENT

FOR OUTSTANDING MANAGERS AGED 32 - 45 YEARS. The core - a rigorous practical training in Marketing, Finance and Human Skills - is linked to live General Management Consulting Projects inside actual organisations.

Close tutorial feedback, free choice options and personal tuition are traditions of the Programme.

PROMOTES EFFECTIVE CONTRIBUTION TO CORPORATE ACHIEVEMENT.

For details, complete the following and return to: Jean McDonald, Administrator, EDC, Manchester Business School, FREEPOST, (no stamp required), Manchester M15 5DA. Tel: 061-273 8228 Ext 143 Telex: 863354

Name _____ Position _____ Co. Address _____ Tel. No. _____

"In the first rank internationally" - *The Economist*

£20 A MONTH CAN ACCUMULATE A LOT OF MONEY

If you had chosen fifteen years ago to save £20 a month in a building society, and had left the interest to accumulate, by 1st October 1984 your total outlay of £3,600 would have built up to £7,184. On the other hand, if you had chosen to save the same amount each month in one of our larger unit trusts, the M&G Second General Trust Fund, you would have built up an investment worth £14,828, an extra £7,644.

You can start an M&G Unit Trust Savings Plan with as little as £20. You need not subscribe regularly but we strongly recommend that you do so, by completing the Bankers Order form. By saving a regular amount you make fluctuations in the stockmarket work to your advantage because more units are bought when their price is low than when it is high.

Unit trusts are an excellent method of investing in the various stockmarkets of the world, and are ideal for regular investment over the longer term. They are not suitable for money you may need at short notice.

The price of units and the income from them may go down as well as up.

Your Savings Plan subscriptions go into Accumulation units of the Fund you choose and income is reinvested automatically after basic-rate tax. Further details of the Funds and the rules of the plan are available on request. All the Funds are wider-range securities and are authorised by The Secretary of State for Trade and Industry.

The only charges are those you would normally pay on a purchase of unit trusts and there is no extra charge for starting a plan.

WHAT YOU COULD HAVE ACCUMULATED FOR £20 A MONTH BY 1st OCTOBER, 1984

	5 YEARS from 10c/1979	10 YEARS from 10c/1974	15 YEARS from 10c/1969
Amount paid in	1,200	2,400	3,600
M&G General	1,965	6,433	12,756
M&G 2nd General	1,985	7,132	14,828
M&G Dividend	2,170	7,296	15,621
M&G International Growth	2,009	6,948	12,838
FT Industrial Ordinary Index	2,039	5,923	10,364
Building Society Savings Account	1,504	3,845	7,184

Source: Planned Savings. All performance figures include income reinvested net of basic-rate tax. The figures for the M&G Funds are 'bid' prices. You should remember that past performance is no guarantee for the future.

A preliminary charge of 5% is included in the purchase price of units and there is an annual management charge, currently limited to 3%.

You can vary the amount you pay and you are free to cash in your accumulated investment, or part of it, at any time without penalty.

The securities in a unit trust are held in safe custody by the Trustee (one of the major banks). You can follow the progress of your plan by looking up the price of units and the current value in the Financial Times or other leading newspapers. You buy units at the 'offer' price and sell at the 'bid' price.

M&G SECURITIES LTD, THREE QUAYS, TOWER HILL, LONDON EC3R 6BQ. TEL: 01-436 4388. (Member of the Unit Trust Association)

NO INSURANCE - NO COMMITMENT

TO: M&G SECURITIES LIMITED, THREE QUAYS, TOWER HILL, LONDON EC3R 6BQ

I wish to subscribe £.00 (min. £200) each month to the M&G Unit Trust Savings Plan and enclose a cheque (payable to M&G Securities Limited) for my first subscription of £.00 (you may wish to start your plan with a lump sum). I wish to link my plan to the Fund circled.

BLOCK CAPITALS, PLEASE

(2) M&G GENERAL (3) M&G 2ND GENERAL (4) M&G DIVIDEND (5) M&G INTERNATIONAL GROWTH (6) FT INDUSTRIAL ORDINARY INDEX (7) BUILDING SOCIETY SAVINGS ACCOUNT

SURNAME _____

DATE _____

ADDRESS _____

POSTCODE _____

SP 484914

This offer is not available to residents of the Republic of Ireland.

BANKERS ORDER DO NOT DETACH FROM ENROLMENT FORM

TO: _____ BANK DATE: _____ 19

Address: _____

Please pay to National Westminster Bank P.L.C., 191, Moulsham Street, Chelmsford CM2 0LN, Account No. 55713270 for the credit of M&G Securities Limited (SAVINGS PLAN ACCOUNT), quoting Account No. (LEAVE BLANK) _____ the sum of £.00 on the _____ day of _____ 19 _____ and continue to pay that amount on the _____ day of each month/quarter until further order in writing from me, and debit my account with you from time to time with such payments.

FROM: SURNAME _____ AND INITIALS: _____

SIGNATURE _____

ADDRESS _____

THE M&G GROUP

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Head Office: Broad

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FAMILY MONEY

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING

Gifts that will gain in value



COLLECTING £50,000 tag for rare sovereign

The Royal Mint was within weeks of churning out thousands of coins bearing the portrait of Edward VIII when he abdicated in December 1936. Although none of the Edward VIII coins were in official circulation, several trial coins have found their way on to the collectors' market.

One of these rare specimens, a proof gold sovereign which came up for auction next Friday at Spink & Son in London, is expected to fetch £50,000. Only five other Edward VIII gold sovereigns have been tracked down - the Mint owns three, one of which is kept at the British Museum, another in the Queen's own collection and at least one other is in private hands.

The coin, dated 1937, shows St George and the dragon on one side and a portrait of Edward VIII by Thomas Humphrey Paget on the other.

The new king refused to follow a 300-year-old tradition which dictates that no monarch should face in the same direction as his predecessor. Edward felt that his left side was his best and refused a compromise put forward by the Mint that his left side features should be transferred to his right side for the coin portrait.

A silver Edward VIII florin, sold at Sotheby's last month as part of the Queen's widow's estate, made £3,190. The coin was presented to the artist as a memento of his work which was never going to be seen by the public. The reverse side of the coin has been milled almost flat, probably by the Mint to debase its value to collectors.

The uncrowned king still arouses passionate feelings. The New Octavians Society was founded this autumn to campaign for the early release of Edward VIII's papers, the creation of a museum at his Fort Belvedere home near Windsor, and the public display of his portrait.

The secretary of the society, Mr Michael Bloch, who helped to sort out the former king's affairs after his death in 1972, is promising to release the papers in his possession even though official documents are being locked away until 2037.

The Edward VIII coinage may be out of your price range, but the stamps which were issued can still be bought for around 60p for the set of four 1p, 1d, 1 1/2d and 2 1/2d.

There is nothing so depressing as the sight of Christmas presents being eaten, drunk, and jumped on so that by Boxing Day there is little more than the dustbin overflowing with wrapping paper to remind you of the time and effort taken in choosing gifts.

But there are masses of presents which will not only last beyond the 12 days of Christmas but will also gain in value.

For a really extravagant present, how about a share in a whole forest of Christmas trees? Some forestry management companies are willing to arrange co-ownership schemes.

For a relatively small outlay, you can own a percentage of a forest which you can visit, as well as enjoying heavy capital appreciation, mostly courtesy of the taxman. Forestry Investment Management runs a scheme which will take investments of £2,000; other schemes require considerably more.

For £10 you can enrol a friend as a member of the Wine Society (Gimnel's Wood Road, Stevenage, Herts). This buys a single share which creeps up in value - a 1954 share has a bonus of £16.97 plus another small sum in proportion to the amount of wine ordered from the society.

This is paid out only on the death of a member so clearly the motive for joining is not to collect cash but wine. The society enjoys all the tax advantages which go with being a friendly society so wines chosen by experts come at reasonable cost.

The society has a range of everyday drinking wines, such as Corbiere VDCs at £25.20 a dozen and white Cotes de Provence AC 1982 at £29.40 a dozen, as well as fine wines. It will recommend wines for laying down and will store them for you in ideal conditions for £3 per dozen a year, supplying an annual report on when the wine should be drunk.

A dozen bottles of 1978 Chateau Horvitz (£78.60) or Chateau Talbot (£118.80) for drinking in two years would make a splendid gift to accompany membership.

Wine can be a good investment with gains of up to 800 per cent being recorded over 10 years. A dozen bottles of 1975 Chateau Lynch-Bages would have cost £24 at the time and could now be sold for £160.

You could also buy shares as a present. Stockbrokers will not generally take new clients off the street but an existing client's

stockbroker should be happy to buy a parcel of shares as a present, no matter how tiny. The firm will still get its minimum commission.

Hoare Govett, for instance, charges a minimum of £15 plus value added tax on equities and £12.50 plus VAT on Government securities for bargains up to £700.

Banks will also buy shares for you. Lloyds will not add anything to the brokers' commission but others, such as Barclays, add £5 plus VAT. These rates make very small

Some banknotes are likely to prove a good investment

purchases unattractive, but you can buy gifts through the Post Office where the minimum charge is £1 for deals up to £250. So a £20 gift-edged gift would cost 5 per cent in commission charges.

A more sparkling gift from the National Savings Society would be premium bonds. The minimum purchase of five £1 bonds opens the chance of winning a real fortune or one of Ernie's £50 sweeteners. You can buy gift vouchers from the Post Office which can be exchanged for National Savings securities in 25 denominations and upwards.

For a different sort of gamble, you could buy one of the

beautiful Chinese Bonds now sold for their pictorial charms. Every now and then a rumour sweeps the City that the Chinese Government is going to repay its international debts, giving the bonds a real value.

Buying gold as a Christmas present is always popular. The value of sovereigns, Kruggerands or Canadian Maple Leafs fluctuates with the price of gold.

Kruggerands have the lowest mark-up on the underlying gold price - 5 per cent on the 1oz coin which sells for around £290 plus VAT if it is brought into this country rather than being stored off-shore somewhere like Jersey. The half-ounce coin is about £153, the quarter-ounce £80 and the one-tenth-ounce £36.

Children might appreciate a Money Matters pack from the Royal Mint with wall charts and booklets explaining coins through the ages and the minting process (price £4.50 from Royal Mint P. O. Box 500, Cardiff CF1 1YV).

The hobby of collecting bank notes is growing and some notes are likely to prove a good investment. You could buy a prized serial number note signed by the current chief cashier, Mr David Somerset, for as little as £6, but it would be more fun to search for a note with a significant date - say, the birth year of the recipient.

After 1928, only the £5 note carried a date and this ceased in 1956. A 1947 £5 note would cost around £25 and one from around 1934 to 1943 about £45

- match it with a birthday copy of *The Times* and you have a complete present.

Stamps are another collector's happy hunting ground where you can find a present which might rise in value and might also be appreciated by the non-collector.

Stanley Gibbons sells stamps from all over the world, and one of its experts will put together a special interest collection, such as pre-war Indian stamps, but the starting price for this sort of special treatment is around £500.

Stamps are another collector's happy hunting ground

You can buy off-the-peg collections from single countries from £185, with the Ascension collection at £110 and the Falkland Islands collections ranging from £175 to £545 for a selection of stamps catalogued at £710.

Unfortunately, jewellery is seldom a wise investment, but you could find an antique piece which may increase in value as it is worn - or you could buy a platinum bar which must be a cut above a mere gold slab.

Johnson Matthey produces a five gramme bar at £67 and a 10 gramme bar at £129, including VAT.

You might not think of unit trusts as a sparkling gift but

Foreign and Colonial think its F & C Capital Fund is a good present to give the under-18s to interest them in high finance. It is taking gift investments as low as £20 if the present is for a child, rather than the usual minimum of £500.

Children are usually drawn to the range of freebies offered by the banks and building societies with junior accounts. Halifax Building Society has produced a Christmas gift cheque starting at £5 which can be credited to a new or existing savings account. The under-18s are automatically enrolled in the Halifax Little Xtra Club and given a money box in the shape of a house, a badge, stickers and a height chart.

Yorkshire Bank has also made a special effort for Christmas and produced a seasonal candle gift pack for the bubble money box which is given to every child opening a savings account. Parents or grandparents can open an account on a child's behalf.

But many of the year-round packages are more attractive - there is the Adopt-A-Duck idea from Greenwich Building Society, which offers children the chance to join the Wildfowl Trust's scheme and take a special interest in the fortunes of a duck they have named. They are also given a chart with a duck sticker for every deposit of £1 or more and 6.75 per cent interest.

Peckham Building Societies' Jumbo Savings Club offers an attractive return to junior savers plus free 200 tickets. Abbey National has signed up Mickey Mouse, who will send junior savers a birthday card every year, while Bristol & West has Snoopy, Cheltenham & Gloucester, Paddington Bear, and Henry's Cat is with the Woolwich.

The banks which are about to lose their advantage of offering interest without deduction of tax are also keen to attract young savers.

The family of pigs created by National Westminster aims to keep children as loyal savers rather than allowing them to account-hop from bank to bank to pick up the initial pack of free goodies. When an account is opened, £1 out of the minimum £3 deposit goes towards the first china pig, and new pigs are added free as the account balance passes various milestones so that when it tops £100 the child will have the full family of five pigs.

Vivien Goldsmith

First National Securities Base rate

First National Securities Limited announces that with effect from 1st December 1984 its base rate for lending will be reduced to 11%.

First National Securities Ltd., First National House, College Road, Harrow, Middlesex HA1 1FB. Telephone: 01-861 1313.

MIDDLETON BUILDING SOCIETY NOTICE TO INVESTORS

As from 1st December 1984, the interest paid in Masterplan and Income Plus (4th Issue) shares will be reduced as follows:

Balance	Income Plus	Masterplan
Up to £500	6.95% - 9.93%	7.25% - 10.36%
Up to £2,000	7.55% - 10.79%	8.00% - 11.43%
Up to £5,000	8.35% - 11.93%	8.75% - 12.50%
Up to £10,000	8.50% - 12.14%	9.00% - 12.85%
Over £10,000	9.00% - 12.86%	9.50% - 13.57%

*Gross annual equivalent when base rate is 14%.

All other share and deposit accounts currently on offer will be reduced by 1.00% per annum.

Accounts no longer on offer will be reduced by up to 1.00% per annum.

Contact your local Middleton Branch if you require further details.



We've got better ideas for your money.

HIGH RATE TAXPAYERS

Produce tax free returns from your investments.

For details of a personal investment management service contact:

C. J. How, Financial Consultant,
3 Beaufort Buildings, Spa Road,
Gloucester GL1 1XB.

Member of the National Association of Security Dealers and Investment Managers

Give the Christmas Gift that makes saving fun!

An Abbey National Junior Savers account is the perfect present for a special young someone. It's a great habit to get them into. And they'll find saving can be fun. If the account is opened before Christmas, they can enter the great 101 Dalmatians Competition, too. They may win one of three magical Poundstretcher family trips to wonderful Walt Disney World. And every new Junior Saver gets a free 101 Dalmatians Fun Pack.

A pound is all you need to start them off. They'll get full adult interest rates on their savings. And most importantly, Abbey National are open when Junior Savers can get to them - after school and on Saturday mornings. The Christmas present that's best for their future - the Abbey National Junior Savers Club.

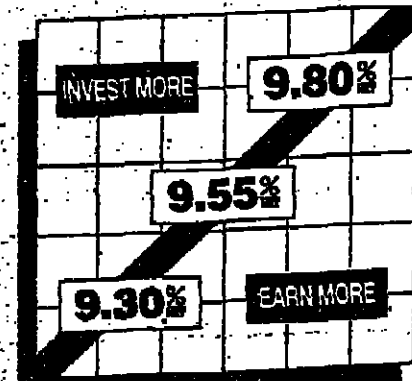
ABBEY NATIONAL JUNIOR SAVERS CLUB

ABBEY NATIONAL BUILDING SOCIETY, ABBEY HOUSE, BAKER STREET, LONDON NW1 6XL



9.8% NET

AND ONLY 7 DAYS NOTICE



The Bristol Triple Bonus Account rewards you handsomely for investing more.

£1,000 to £4,999 at our new higher rates gives a healthy 9.30% (13.29% gross). £5,000 to £19,999 returns a generous 9.55% (13.64% gross).

And £20,000 or more earns 9.80% (14.00% gross) - an interest rate you'll find hard to beat anywhere.

Only seven days' notice is needed for withdrawal; if you leave £10,000 or more invested, you can withdraw instantly.

If you'd like a monthly income at the same high rates, ask about the Triple Bonus Income account.

Our local branch has full details.

BRISTOL TRIPLE BONUS ACCOUNT

Bristol & West BUILDING SOCIETY

Authorised for investment by Trustees. Assets covered, £1,700 million. Member of the Building Societies Association. Net interest is paid annually and by tax paid at the basic rate. Overseas rates are available for basic rate taxpayers. Interest rates and terms may vary.

Head Office: Broad Quay, Bristol BS99 7AX. Telephone: (0272) 294271. Over 160 branches from Penzance to Aberdeen.

To my Grandson To our daughter For my Godson Are you stuck for ideas for Christmas presents?

F & C Unit Management can help. As a special Christmas offer, we are prepared to accept single investments of £20 (or more) in the F & C Capital Fund - providing the person receiving the present is under 18 on 25th December 1984.

This investment opportunity allows you to give a really worthwhile gift. By purchasing units in the F & C Capital Fund now, you will be providing a child with a growing investment for his or her future.

You can add to the initial investment at any time, in multiples of £20, to celebrate such occasions as birthdays, exam successes and future Christmases.

If we receive your cheque and completed application form before 7th December, we will make sure the unit certificate is posted to you, first class, by 14th December, so you can give the present personally on Christmas Day. Please post early to avoid the Christmas rush.

F & C Capital Fund

The F & C Capital Fund is a technology unit trust investing throughout the world in new and emerging growth industries, such as telecommunications, healthcare, biotechnology and microtechnology. It aims to provide maximum capital growth over the long term.

F & C Unit Management

F & C Unit Management Ltd is part of the £1,000 million Foreign & Colonial Management Group which has been looking after the interests of individuals and companies since 1868.

General Information

The Trust is authorised by the Department of Trade and Industry and constituted by Trust Deed. An initial charge of 5% is included in the price of units and there is an annual charge of 1% (plus VAT) of the value of the Fund. Prices and yields are calculated and published daily in *The Times*, *Financial Times* and *Daily Telegraph*. Income distributions are made on 30 April and 31 October. Units are allocated at the price ruling when we receive your order. Units may be sold back at any time at a price not less than the bid price on the day we receive your instructions. Payment is normally made within 7 days of receipt of your renounced certificate. This offer is not open to residents of the Republic of Ireland. Managers: F & C Unit Management Limited, Laurence Pountney Hill, London EC4R 0BA. Member of the Unit Trust Association.

What you need to know

- At the time of initial investment, the units bought will be held in the name of the donor but designated to the beneficiary, who must not yet have reached 18 years of age. The Midland Bank Trust Company Ltd acts as trustee for this Fund, holding the Fund's securities on the unitholders' behalf.
- The six monthly dividends will be reinvested automatically. When the recipient reaches 18 years of age, the donor will be sent a form to transfer the units into the beneficiary's own name.
- Reports on the progress of the Fund will be sent to the donor each April and October.
- The offer price of units in the F & C Capital Fund is \$9.1p and the gross estimated current yield is 1.38% (on 30.11.84). In the 18 months to 15.9.84, the offer price of units rose by 39.87%. Even only assuming a growth of 10% a year an investment of £100 now could become £259 in 10 years.
- This offer is open for a limited period only, to 7th December 1984.

How to invest

Simply complete the application form below and send it with your cheque, so we receive it by 7th December latest. Don't forget that the person you are giving this present to must be under 18 years old and you must let us have their name(s). Please also remember that there is no guarantee of capital growth and the price of units and the income from them can go down as well as up.

F&C CHRISTMAS OFFER

The F & C Unit Management Limited, c/o Manchester Unit Trust Administration Co Limited, 57/63 Princess Street, Manchester M2 4EQ.

I/we wish to invest £ (minimum £20) in units of the F & C Capital Fund at the offer price ruling at the time you receive this application.

Name of Donor: (Mr/Ms/Miss) _____

Address: _____

Name of Beneficiary: _____ Age: _____

Donor's signature: _____ Date: _____

Foreign & Colonial MANAGEMENT GROUP

THE TIMES Portfolio

From your Portfolio card check your eight share price movements. Add them up to give you your overall total. Check this against the daily dividend figure published on this page. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the total daily prize money stated. If you are a winner follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming.

No.	Company	Year gain or loss
1	INDUSTRIALS A-D	
2	Applied Comp Tech	
3	Black Arrow	
4	Cam O'Scan Pack	
5	Chalcids Int	
6	BIBA	
7	Cochran	
8	Davies & Newman	
9	Barham	
10	Broken Hill	
11	Dolby	
12	INDUSTRIALS E-Z	
13	Silhouette	
14	Standard Fireworks	
15	Transoceanical	
16	Van Lee (FHI)	
17	Smith Whitworth	
18	Stonehill	
19	Seville Gordon (I)	
20	SI	
21	Sunrise Ind	
22	TNT	
23	INDUSTRIALS L-R	
24	Office Elect Mach	
25	Ricardo Eng	
26	Renold (S)	
27	Permat (S)	
28	MS Int	
29	Pilkington	
30	LRC	
31	MacFarlane	
32	Mitchell Somers	
33	Newman-Toms	
34	ELECTRICALS	
35	Energy Serv	
36	Five Castle Bldg	
37	Lea Refrigeration	
38	Electrocomponents	
39	Chloride	
40	STC	
41	Presac	
42	Suer	
43	Unitel	
44	Cable & Wireless	

© Times Newspapers Limited. Your Daily Total

Weekly Dividend
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £40,000 in today's newspaper.

Claimants should ring 0254-53272

BRITISH FUNDS

1984 High Low Company Price Change % P/E

SHORTS (Under Five Years)

Price Change % P/E

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

Price Change % P/E

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

Price Change % P/E

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STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Market subdued

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Nov 26. Dealings End, Dec 7. Contango Day, Dec 10. Settlement Day, Dec 17.

Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

1984 High Low Company Price Change % P/E	1984 High Low Company Price Change % P/E
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BUILDING AND ROADS

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Saturday

Television and radio programmes
Summaries: Peter Dear and Peter Davalle

Sunday

BBC 1

8.30 The Persheers, with the voice of Leonard Rossiter as Boot (r). 8.35 The Littlest Hobo (r).

9.00 Saturday Superstore managed by Mike Reid. Lenny Henry is in the studio taking calls from viewers. James Galway plays his golden flute; a quartet, all members of Mensa, attempt to play together despite being miles apart; Jeremy Charles talks about the changing face of 2000; and Eddie Grant sings his latest release, 12.12 Weather.

12.15 Grandstand introduced by Desmond Lynam. The line-up is: 12.20 Football Focus with Bob Wilson; 12.30 News; 2.55, 1.25 and 1.55 Racing from Cheltenham; 1.10, 1.40, 2.40 and 4.15 Snooker. Part one of the final of the Coral United Kingdom Championship; 2.10 Sky-ing: The Ladies Slalom from Cheltenham; 3.30 and 3.55 Rugby League: John Player Special Trophy second round match; 3.50 Half-time scores and reports; 4.00 Final scores.

5.05 News with Moira Stuart. 5.15 Sport, Regional news.

5.20 The Thriller. The penultimate episode of the science fiction series and the boys have been arrested for stealing a loaf of bread (Cee-fax).

5.45 The Noel Edwards Late Late Breakfast Show includes the Thompson Twins singing their latest single.

6.35 Bob's Full House. Bob Monkhouse with another edition of the electronic bingo game (Cee-fax).

7.10 Juliet Bravo. The final episode of the series brings no respite for Inspector Kats Longton. The new vicar of Hartley is visited by a man who has confessed to a murder and is threatening to kill himself. Is it the man who is about to jump from the window ledge of the local mill?

8.00 Hi-de-Hi! Peggy discovers a personal letter from Joe Maplin to Clive Denyer. Is the new Entertainment Manager really a mole sent to spy on the staff of the holiday camp?

8.30 Dynasty. It's Blake and Kyrie's re-wedding day - but Anne is not invited to the nuptials (Cee-fax).

9.15 Wogan. Terry Wogan's guests this week are Doreen Vora Lynn, Angela Ripston and Roald Dahl. Plus a song from Kiki Dee.

10.05 News and sport with Moira Stuart.

10.20 Championship Snooker. Frames 15 to 14 in the final of the Coral United Kingdom Championship.

10.50 Match of the Day introduced by Jimmy Hill. Highlights from matches in the First and Second divisions plus the results from the final of the North competition.

11.40 Championship Snooker. The closing frames of the eight to 14 section of the final of the Coral United Kingdom Championship, introduced by David Vine from the Guild Hall, Preston. The commentators are Ted Lowe, Jack Karmath and Clive Everton.

12.55 Weather.

TV-am

6.00 Good Morning Britain, presented by Henry Kelly, begins with a repeat of a Dream Home episode; news at 6.25, 7.00 and 8.00; Saturday Call at 8.30 deals with looking good for Christmas; sport at 7.15, cooking with Rosie Lee and Henry Kelly interviews Paul McCartney at 8.00. The guest is Dr Rob Buckman.

ITV/LONDON

9.25 Cartoon Time. 9.30 Fraggles Rock (r). 10.00 The Saturday Starship. Cartoons, videos, film clips and guests, introduced by Bonnie Langford, Tommy Boyd and Nigel Roberts. 11.20 Midsomer. Cartoon adventures of the A-Team character. 11.45 Catweazle (r).

12.15 World of Sport introduced by Dickie Davies. The line-up is: 12.20 Highlights of this week's Ladbroke Cup Rally; 1.25 News; 1.55 Sky-ing: The Ladies Slalom from Cheltenham; 3.30 and 3.55 Rugby League: John Player Special Trophy second round match; 3.50 Half-time scores and reports; 4.00 Final scores.

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12.55 Weather.

BBC 2

8.00 Cee-fax. 10.35 Open University Robotics 11.00 A Cut Above the Rest 11.25 Open Forum: OUSA National Conference 1984 11.50 Hospital 12.15 Cee-fax.

CHANNEL 4

1.05 Making the Most Of... Inexpensive ideas for leisure pursuits (r).

1.30 Claret. Comic. Educational programme for children.

2.00 Film: Victory (1940) starring Fredric March as a reclusive living in the Dutch East Indies who finds himself with a companion when he rescues her from the unwanted attentions of a disagreeable German hotel owner. Directed by John Cromwell.

3.25 Film: One More River (1934) starring Diana Wynyard, Frank Lawton and Mrs Patrick Campbell. A drama, based on the novel by John Galsworthy, about a young woman who decides to leave her sadistic husband in Cayton and return to England. Directed by James Whale.

5.05 Brookside (r).

5.10 Danger Man. John Drake is in Sicily investigating the suspicious death of a NATO agent.

5.30 Rock'n'America. Video clips of, among others, Jackson Browne and Pat Austin.

7.00 News summary and weather followed by 7 Days. Dr Nico Smith, a pastor in a South African black community talks about the Dutch Reformed Church's attitude to apartheid: Phil Woolles of the NUS talks about this week's student demonstration; and child's heart surgeon Duncan Walker examines the ethics of experimental surgery.

7.30 A Jury of Peers, starring Diane de Lorian and Dorothy Lancaster. A drama about a woman who is accused of killing her husband.

8.00 The Sonnets of William Shakespeare. Michael Bryant performs Sonnet 64: 'Gone with the wind'.

8.15 Muck and Brass. Another episode from the shady life of wheeler dealer Tom Craig (Mel Smith).

9.15 Twenty Twenty Vision: Child Sex Abuse. The first of three programmes.

10.00 Hill Street Blues. LaRue is implicated in the murder of a girlfriend's husband.

11.00 Pushing Up Daisies. Comedy.

11.30 Film: Nightmares (1986) starring Edward G. Robinson. Thriller about a man who forges his identity as a doctor to help a woman who has been kidnapped. Directed by Maxwell Shane.

1.10 Closedown.

BBC 1

8.55 Heads and Tails. A See-Saw programme for the very young (r).

9.10 People First. The third of five films for parents of children with a mental handicap (r). 9.35 Making the Most of the Micro. Part eight of the series explaining the capabilities of microcomputers (r).

10.00 Asian Magazine includes Binda Rai commenting on the findings of the Race Relations Committee of the Senate of the Inns of Court and the Bar.

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Cyril Cusack reads a W. B. Yeats poem in today's instalment of Six Centuries of Verse (Channel 4, 3.45 pm)

BBC 2

9.00 Cee-fax. 10.45 Open University: Science. Preparatory Maths: Graphs. 11.00 Living with Technology: Facts Are Not Enough. 11.25 Cee-fax.

2.00 Horizon: Global Village. An examination of the impact television has had on the Indian village of Marikonda (r).

2.50 The World Chess Championship. Jeremy James reviews the week's play in Moscow.

3.15 George Orwell. Part three of the Arena series on the life and works of George Orwell deals with the time he enlisted to fight on the Republican side in the Spanish Civil War (r).

4.10 Music from St George's. The Chillingham String Quartet play Schubert's Quartet in C minor and Bartok's Fifth Quartet.

5.00 Geoffrey Smith's World of Flowers. Rhododendrons (r).

5.25 Sky Sunday. The first of a new series begins with the Men's Slalom from Seefeld. Ron Pickering reports from the Italian Alps while David Vine previews the battle for the downhill title.

6.00 News Review with Moira Stuart (subtitled).

6.30 The Money Programme includes a report on Britain's racing car industry.

7.15 Our House. The final programme of the series focuses on the Victorian terraced house in Southampton of the Tarry family.

7.45 The Natural World: A Question of Space. How a satellite, five hundred miles up in space, might provide the information that could save Kenya's wildlife from the encroaching human population.

8.35 News with Moira Stuart.

8.40 Did You See...? Our House, Just Sex and Morgan's Boy are reviewed by Richard Ingram, Rosalind Coward and Elaine Morgan.

9.25 The Year of... Cumberland farmer, Casson Fox.

10.00 Film: Logan's Run (1976) starring Michael York, Jenny Agutter and Richard Jordan. Science fiction drama set in 2274 in which the remnants of the earth's population, decimated by nuclear war, are allowed to live a life of pleasure, only to die at the age of 30. Directed by Michael Anderson.

11.55 From Darkness to Light. A candlelit service from Salisbury Cathedral for Advent Sunday (r). Ends at

